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Palestinian Affairs

PNC Speaker Announces 'Al-Aqsa Army' Formation

JN2110162290 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Oct 90 pp 1, 9

[Report by Firdaws al-'Abbadi in Baghdad]

[Excerpt] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], announced at the conclusion of the Arab parliamentarians' meetings in Baghdad yesterday the formation of an Arab army called the al-Aqsa Army.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, al-Sa'ih said the army's goal is the liberation of Palestine. We have great hopes that the vanguards of this army will be led by President Saddam Husayn so we can fly the banners of might, dignity, and victory in the al-Aqsa Mosque and Palestine, God willing, he added.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that the Arab parliamentary meeting was successful, and that its resolutions and final statement were unanimously adopted. He added: I think the meeting achieved its purpose by showing the determination of all the Arabs, and the parliamentarians in particular, to continue the struggle to save the sanctities in Palestine and in holy Mecca and Medina in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], near which the invading foreign forces are now present. [passage omitted]

More on Islamic Jihad Decision To Use Firearms

JN2610100890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Oct 90 pp 18, 12

[Excerpt] Amman-AL-RA'Y—Shaykh Ibrahim Musarbil, official spokesman for the Islamic Jihad Movement-al-Aqsa Battalions, has announced that the Movement has decided to use firearms against the Israeli enemy as of the beginning of November.

At a news conference in al-Rusayfah yesterday, attended by local, Arab, and international media reporters, he said we will intensify our use of hand weapons [al-silah al-abyad] and arson against enemy facilities. The world will see the impact of this, he added.

He raised his hand and said: When we stab our enemy, we shout: Allahu Akbar [God is great].

He said the Movement's fighters are spread throughout the Palestinian territories occupied in 1948, those occupied in 1967, and in the diaspora.

Shaykh Musarbil denied that the Movement is against the PLO or Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. He stressed the need for all forces to display cohesion to beat off the Israeli aggression and establish the independent Palestinian state.

He praised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and paid tribute to his [12 August] initiative, but he hoped that Iraq would support the Palestinian mujahidin and their valiant intifadah with firepower.

He threatened that if the Americans and Europeans attack Iraq, they will face the same fate they faced in Lebanon at the hands of the Movement's men throughout Europe and the United States.

Referring to religious rulings that allowed Muslims to seek help from foreigners to repel aggression, Shaykh Musarbil rejected seeking help from infidels. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Knesset' Ban on PLO Contacts Decried

JN2510193890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1808 GMT 25 Oct 90

[From the "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] A spark can initiate lightning, and lightning ushers in light and freedom.

Dear brothers, the latest farce of the United States, which has been notorious for producing an unlimited number of farces, states that the U.S. Senate endorsed a total ban on contacts with the PLO because of its position rejecting the U.S. conspiracy against Arabian Gulf lands and waters. The paradox here lies in the fact that the decision wrongly implies that there are contacts on the highest levels between the U.S. Administration and the PLO. Besides, the paradox is also highlighted because the decision overlooks the fact that the U.S. Administration actually severed the only channel of contact between it and the PLO a few months ago due to the PLO's categorical rejection of the U.S. policy of blackmail, by which it sought to dictate to the PLO. Likewise, the paradox wrongly implies that there are signs of contacts between the U.S. Administration, which has gone to extremes in its enmity toward the Palestinian people, and the PLO, which has firm and principled national and pan-Arab positions that are not for sale—a matter to be contrasted with what the subservient and treasonous regimes are doing.

The U.S. Senate—to be more honest, the U.S. knesset—looked for ways to severely punish the PLO and the Palestinian people for their position on the U.S.-Zionist aggression against the Arab nation in the Arabian Gulf, and found that it had nothing to punish them with. It found that its cupboard has been cleared of all the means and ammunition of aggression which it could use to fight the PLO. Previous and similar U.S. measures in this regard have failed to undermine the PLO's unity, as well as its sole and legitimate representation of the Palestinian people. Moreover, the U.S. knesset found that its punitive measures have failed to undermine the PLO's principles and positions, and the structure of its accumulating struggle, as well as its creative will to fight on all fronts of the struggle. After a tortuous search, a careful examination, and a trailblazing scrutiny, the genius of the U.S. knesset came up with what it deluded itself into believing would be a punishment of the PLO

for its principled pan-Arab positions. The punishment concerned halting the channel of contact that this knesset had already halted. The reference here is to what the PLO preferred to see halted to prevent it from turning into a channel for extortion and dictates, no more and no less.

Thus, what the U.S. Senate has done is nothing but an uncouth joke which amused no one, yet which caused everyone to laugh at the repulsive U.S. official who was behind its invention. At any rate, we would like to address the U.S. knesset members, saying: To hell with you and your contact channels, which are closed to truth and open to all manifestations of falsehood. As a matter of fact, these are the words of the youngest Palestinian stone thrower.

Response to Remarks by U.S. Ambassador to Syria

Said To Equal Declaration of War

NC2510184790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Zayd Wahbah, Fatah Movement's political official in Lebanon, said that the statement made by Djerejian [U.S. ambassador in Syria] is tantamount to a declaration of war on the Palestinians. He noted that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is of a special nature and not equated with a militia's presence. He said the Lebanese officials are well aware of the importance of the ties with the Palestinian cause, adding: We are awaiting the organization of these ties through the Palestinian and Lebanese legitimacies.

Meanwhile, Colonel Abu-Musa, secretary of Fatah-the Uprising, criticized the statements of the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. He said these statements constitute a flagrant intervention in Arab affairs to sow discord in the Palestinian-Lebanese relations.

Denounced by 'Responsible Source'

LD2510194590 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] A Palestinian responsible source has stated the following:

The international news agencies surprised us today by statements attributed to the U.S. ambassador to Syria, Mr. Edward Peter Djerejian, in which he blatantly interfered in a purely Arab affair concerning the issue of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and its security, and in which he appointed himself as U.S. high commissioner to Syria and Lebanon and involved himself in determining the form of Palestinian relations in Lebanon.

He considered the forces of the Palestinian National Army in Lebanon, which are responsible for defending our Palestinian camps and masses in southern Lebanon against Israeli aggression, which did not stop for a single day for many years, sometimes directly and sometimes by commissioning the forces of their agents in the Lebanese south—and the last of which was the Israeli air raid against Palestinian civilian targets in the al-Rashidiyah camp and around it yesterday. [as heard]

The PLO strongly condemns this American interference in Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese affairs, and appeals to the brothers in Damascus to force the U.S. ambassador there to behave according to diplomatic traditions, and to stop his inciting interference against the sons of our Palestinian people in Lebanon.

It seems that the U.S. bias toward Israel, especially in the United Nations, now reflects it clear aims of plotting a bloody operation against the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

It is regrettable that the aforementioned U.S. ambassador did not mention a single word on the international legitimacy of the resolutions on Palestine and Lebanon, especially those concerning the Israeli occupation of the Lebanese south and the international resolutions about it.

VOP Says Bush Working Against Arab Solution

LD2510220690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In his usual custom of pursuing the escalation of crises and pushing them forcefully toward the brink of destructive explosion, and hence blocking the way for any opportunity or possibility, however small, of peaceful solutions to the crises, U.S. President George Bush, who keeps shouting the war cry in the Gulf against Arab Iraq, did not hide his extreme annoyance with the new sparks of hope on the horizon of the crisis. He is particularly annoyed with those that appeared in Saudi statements expressing a desire for a negotiated solution to the Gulf crisis and which said Saudi Arabia does not at all object to any Arab country's giving a sister country land or a position on the sea; as well as the easing of tension in Iraqi-French relations, which culminated with the Iraqi decision to release its French guests, a matter which was met with extreme satisfaction in French official quarters and with reservations in official quarters, which did not hide their satisfaction with the Iraqi step.

It is not surprising that the U.S. Administration met such tendencies, and any other tendency aimed at a peaceful settlement of the crisis, with this extreme annoyance and anger which was represented by President Bush's launching a feverish personal campaign against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in order to turn international public opinion against him, and by his carrying out quick contacts with Saudi officials for explaination of the official Saudi stance toward the crisis. These contacts led Saudi Arabia to returning to talk about four constants which govern the Saudi stance toward the crisis, and that anything else constitutes an irresponsible interpretation.

This clearly shows that Washington does not want any Arab possibility to resort to reason, logic, and fraternity

in solving the crises. It also shows that Washington does its utmost to throw a wrench in the works of the Arab solution and to consecrate the state of division in the Arab arena. By this, Washington does not leave any margin for its Arab allies to move even slightly closer to the Iraqi position, which confirmed its readiness for an Arab solution provided foreign forces withdraw and the threat of war ends.

We must recall the U.S. positions, which are anti-Iraq and anti-Arab solutions, and which emerged from the beginning of the crisis and constitute one of the most prominent factors which pushed the crisis to its current complicated situation. These positions obstructed the chances of an Arab solution, which was then possible, when it pushed some Arab leaders to adopt stances and resolutions condemning Iraq and to send Arab armies to the region on the pretext of protecting Saudi Arabia from alleged dangers, a matter which made Iraq abandon its resolution to withdraw from Kuwait which was announced in the first days of the crisis.

There is still a chance for some of the Arab leaderships which were wrong, to return to reason, correct the course of their wrong policies, and stand with the ranks of the countries which call for an Arab solution, for which sooner or later there will be no alternative.

PLO's Abu-Sharif on U.S. 'Double Standard'

JN2510171590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The PLO has warned of a Zionist plan to suppress the Palestinian people's intifadah through pursuit of a large-scale criminal policy inside the occupied Palestinian territories.

In a statement in Tunis yesterday, brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to brother President Yasir 'Arafat, said that the Zionist Government's decision to close the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip—which coincided with a decision by the Zionist war minister to allow Zionists to fire on any Palestinian suspected of posing a danger to their lives and to view the opening of fire on Palestinians as a duty to be performed by all Zionists—is a step paving the way for the implementation of this plan.

Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif urged the UN secretary-general to put an end to the delay demonstrated at the international body in taking practical measures to protect the Palestinian people from organized Zionist terrorism. He indicated that the situation in occupied Palestine has reached intolerable proportions. He added that the international community should not be allowed to maintain silence regarding this situation. He went on to say: The continued failure on the part of the United States to acknowledge the crimes committed by the Zionist authorities against our Palestinian people is a manifestation of a deliberate policy which employs double standards when dealing with human rights. The U.S. president, the U.S. Administration, and Congress are violating U.S. laws when they continue to extend financial, military, and political support to the Zionist entity at a time when the occupation authorities continue to violate Palestinian human rights.

Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif urged the Arab masses to take steps to support the besieged Palestinian people, and affirmed that resistance to the occupation will continue regardless of the nature of the Zionist entity's terrorist and repressive measures.

Term 'Temple Mount' Called Affront to Muslims

JN2510121390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 18

[Text] Tunis, PETRA—An official Palestinian spokesman has said that, at the suggestion of the U.S. Administration, U.S. media and certain Arab newspapers have begun to call the al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem the "Temple Mount," which is the Zionist name for the most sacred place in Palestine, and which is an affront to the feelings of Arabs and Muslims all over the world.

In a statement carried by the PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY—WAFA, the spokesman added that, while urging Arab and Islamic nations to act immediately on all levels to protect their sanctities in Palestine, the PLO cautions world public opinion against the danger of this exposed conspiracy by those circles and newspapers in the United States and certain European countries. It also cautions against the dimensions of the conspiracy and the insistence of those behind it—the Zionists and their allies—on pursuing their scheme and conspiracy against the first qiblah, the third holiest mosque, the place from which the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven, and the cradle of Jesus, may God bless him.

The spokesman expressed astonishment at the silence of certain official Arab and Islamic states over this constant conspiracy against our sanctities in Palestine.

Algeria

Food Shortage Riots in Tenes; 200 Said Arrested

NC2510122690 Paris AFP in English 1157 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Algiers, Oct 25 (AFP)—Rioting broke out in the small fishing port of Tenes, where police on Wednesday used tear-gas grenades to disperse demonstrators angered over food shortages and price increases, witnesses said.

They said the rioters ransacked several buildings, including a gas station, a municipal office, several stores and cafes, and telephone booths. They also burned a school bus during the protest, which lasted through much of Tuesday and Wednesday.

It was not immediately known if there were any victims. Unconfirmed reports said up to 200 people were arrested in Tenes, a town of 25,000 west of the capital.

Witnesses said anti-riot police threw a hundred tear-gas grenades to disperse the last protestors, who were demanding that police free those arrested earlier.

The rioters, mostly youths, set up roadblocks with burning tires and tree trunks on the main road to protest the delivery of grain unloaded in Tenes to the neighboring town and regional capital, Cheliff.

It was the latest in a series of outbreaks over continuing shortages of basic food products and unemployment.

Trouble erupted in mid-October in Constantine, the country's third largest city, when 5,000 demonstrators protested a sharp increase in the price of fruits and vegetables.

Violence then spread to Tebessa on the Tunisian border when unemployed youths burned and ransacked public buildings to protest what they said was "favoritism" in awarding the rare jobs that arise in the region.

The nearby town of Kais was hit by similar incidents.

In the capital area, incidents are reported daily with residents increasingly angered over water, gas, electricity and housing shortages, and strikes in public enterprises are becoming commonplace.

Tension has heightened with the government's apparent refusal to boost consumption with the extra revenue earned when oil prices shot up because of the Gulf crisis.

The extra money—estimated at 2.5 billion dollars—is to go instead to help pay Algeria's heavy debt.

On Tuesday, the main Algerian union UGTA opened sensitive talks with the government to try to increase the minimum wage from the current 1,500 dinars (about 161 dollars per month) to 4,000 dinars (430 dollars). The union also wants prices frozen and efforts to find jobs for youth.

The unemployement rate in Algeria is currently estimated at 1.5 million.

District Head Comments

LD2510175590 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Resumption of the demonstrations in Tenes this morning: After yesterday's troubles, some 20 young people were arrested and brought before the public prosecutor. This is what started further demonstrations, as the head of Tenes District told us, when contacted by telephone by Nadjia Fouzache:

[Begin Tenes District official recording] The condition which the demonstrators are setting is that the people arrested, in other words the perpetrators of the disturbances, should be released. It is continuing, it resumed, and people continue to throw stones at the police, and the police are attempting by all possible means to restore calm, by using all the means at their disposal, of course, in other words, tear gas grenades. [passage omitted]

It all began with the flour problem. The flour problem has been settled. I intervened personally with the directorate general of the Sempac Company: We released about 1,200 sacks of 50 kg each to attempt to satisfy the needs of the population. Unfortunately, it was pointless. It is not a valid reason for there to be demonstrations and damage. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Government, Workers Union Reach Wages Agreement

LD2610004890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The negotiations which brought the government and the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] together ended this afternoon after a long and hard series of frank talks which took place under the chairmanship of Premier Mouloud Hamrouche and UGTA Secretary-General Abdelhak Ben Hammoudah.

The two sides agreed to raise the minimum wage level which will go up from 1,000 dinars to 1,800 Algerian dinars as of 1 January 1991. This will represent a basis for calculating pension payments.

The minimum wage level will also be raised to 2,000 dinars on 1 July 1991. The minimum wage of an employed person will apply to all sectors and will be raised to 2,100 Algerian dinars as of November 1990 and to 2,300 Algerian dinars in January 1991.

The two sides also signed an agreement on the minimum wage which will be raised to 2,500 dinars as of July 1991. These minimum wages will concern the economic sector and the civil service. A statement will be issued explaining all the other points of the agreement at a later date.

Egypt

Primakov Returns to Cairo To Meet With Mubarak

NC2610112790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidium and President Mikhail Gorbachev's personal envoy, arrived in Cairo today on a one-day visit to Egypt as part of his tour of a number of Arab countries. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, stated that President Husni Mubarak will receive Primakov this afternoon.

Cairo To Cooperate With Primakov Peace Moves

JN2510143390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] It has been learned from informed Egyptian sources that during Soviet presidential envoy Yevgeniy Primakov's meeting yesterday with Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian Minister of state for foreign affairs, and Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser for political affairs, Primakov stated that the Soviet ideas are the only chance left to settle the Gulf crisis in a peaceful manner. He pointed out that if these ideas fail, the Soviet Union will give up its attempts to propose political solutions and will join the other countries for military settlement of the crisis.

Primakov said that all the European countries and the United States have given him a one-month trial period, after which the Soviet ideas will become obsolete if no progress concerning these ideas is attained. However, Primakov added that the Soviet Union insisted that no specific timetables be set.

Primakov stressed that the principal incentive for pursuing his mission is the wish of all the countries in the world to settle the Gulf crisis in a peaceful manner.

For his part, Dr. Butrus Ghali affirmed that Egypt does not oppose moves for the peaceful settlement of the crisis. However, he called on the Soviets to communicate the serious state of affairs resulting from the crisis to Iraq, pointing out the need that the Soviets should be serious about joining the other international forces if Iraq insists on its stand of not withdrawing from Kuwait.

Dr. Ghali affirmed that Egypt is ready to make every effort that the Soviets may request in favor of these ideas. He said that the meeting between Primakov and Mubarak will provide the definitive Egyptian response to the Soviet ideas and the means for joint action.

Cairo, Gulf States To Meet on Primakov Proposals

JN2510205390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 25 Oct 90

[From the "Panorama" program; Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following his return from a Gulf tour this evening, Egyptian President Mubarak said in press statements that there is no hesitation with respect to a settlement of the Gulf crisis as long as the Iraqi stand has not changed.

On the other hand, well-informed Egyptian sources told our radio that President Mubarak's talks in the Gulf countries focused on two main points. The first dealt with security arrangements for the Gulf region, and the second dealt with the aspects of economic and political cooperation among the Arab countries. President Mubarak has defined the contents of the security arrangements as having the Arab Gulf countries, in cooperation with Egypt, prepare a joint military study that will provide the definitive basis for the content of these arrangements. This study will be prepared by the chiefs of staff of these countries, while coordination with the foreign countries will remain within a framework that secures support for these countries with the necessary weapons and hardware to develop this security system. During President Mubarak's talks in the United Arab Emirates, the main features of a joint Arab plan were discussed, a plan on which Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Morocco have held consultations. The plan seeks to find a role for Arab forces in the Gulf that will be different from that of the foreign forces in case battles erupt. The president also discussed with the Gulf countries' leaders the dimensions of the French initiative and the Soviet ideas to settle the Gulf crisis. It was learned that contacts will be held between Cairo and the Gulf countries following President Mubarak's meeting with Soviet envoy Primakov tomorrow to adopt a unified position among these countries on the Soviet ideas for the settlement of the Gulf crisis in a peaceful manner.

Mubarak Concludes Tour of Four Gulf States

Returns 25 Oct

NC2510174590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1653 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his delegation returned to the homeland at the end of a Gulf tour that took him to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and the Sultanate of Oman.

He was received upon his return by the prime minister, the Consultative Council speaker, the minister of defense, the minister of communications, the minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs, commanders of the Armed Forces' main branches, and the charges d'affaires of the embassies of the Gulf states which the president visited.

Comments on Gulf Crisis

NC2510182190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that there is no hesitation regarding support for a solution to the existing crisis in the Gulf. President Mubarak, on his return to Cairo, was responding this evening to a journalist's question on the current Gulf situation: whether there is a compromise solution, and the extent of support for a solution. The president said: With regard to support, there is no hesitation. As long as the situation has not changed, the decision will remain as before.

President Mubarak was asked about the talks he will hold with Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov. He said: I have not met him yet. I will meet him. President Mubarak noted that the Soviet envoy had visited Washington and a number of world capitals.

As for the possibility of a four-way summit in Egypt between President Husni Mubarak; Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad; and General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Salvation Revolution Command Council, President Mubarak said: I have not heard that Sudan will take part; as for Col. al-Qadhdhafi and Syrian President al-Asad, we are always holding consultations. President Mubarak added: I always meet with Col. al-Qadhdhafi. This is quite normal. The lines of communications are open between us. The same goes for President al-Asad.

President Mubarak reiterated: As for Sudan, I have heard nothing.

To Send Gulf Reinforcements

NC2610075090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 26 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH has reported that President Husni Mubarak has stated that Egypt will send Air Force and armored units to reinforce our troops currently deployed in the Gulf region. He said that full understanding prevailed in his talks and consultations with the Arab leaders.

Visit Hailed by 'Abd-al-Majid

JN2510181090 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, Oct 25 (GNA)—Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid praised the results of the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Qatar adding the visit fell within the frame of continued consultations and coordination between H.H. [His Highness] the Emir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and President Mubarak on issues of interest to the Arab nation and means to further strengthen bilateral relations .

In an interview with Qatari 'AL-RAYAH' newspaper today Dr. 'Abd- al-Majid said talks by the two leaders resulted in the identity of views since the start of the gulf crisis. Both Egypt and Qatar called for the full and unconditional withdrawal by Iraq from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate authority to Kuwait.

He described Qatar's relations with Egypt as excellent adding both sides agreed to further promote relations in the stage to come .

Egypt and Qatar agreed as well to exert intensive efforts at the Arab and international arenas for strengthening Arab solidarity within the framework of the Arab League, he added.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said his meeting yesterday with the Foreign Minister Mubarak Ali Al Khatir resulted in an agreement that the higher joint committee between the two countries would have a meeting in Doha shortly to activate bilateral relations in the various economic and cultural fields as well as in the field of joint investments for the good of the two peoples. The joint committee was agreed upon during the visit paid by H.H. the Emir Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani to Egypt early this year .

MENA Reports 'Abd-al-Majid UN Day Address

NC2510160790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2217 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Egypt celebrates UN Day with countries all over the world. This year it coincides with the 40th anniversary of the UN Development Program.

The celebration at the al-Tahrir Diplomatic Club was attended by Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, assistant to the foreign minister, on behalf of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

It was also attended by Tawfiq Ibn-'Amarah, resident deputy coordinator of the United Nations in Cairo; Dr. 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din, chairman of the higher council for youth and sports, the head of the UN association in Cairo, some members of the association; diplomats accredited to Cairo, and media officials. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr delivered Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's speech in which he said:

I am pleased to meet with you on this momentous occasion to celebrate UN Day 45 years after its establishment. Egypt was one of its founders. [passage omitted]

The international organization has lived up to the expectations of the world's peace-loving peoples. The UN Security Council, by the unanimous vote of its five

permanent member states, underlined its strong condemnation of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and called on Iraq to withdraw immediately and unconditionally its aggressive forces. It even imposed measures on Iraq designed to compel it to implement the Council's resolutions. Undoubtedly, this problem with all its repercussions, presented a great challenge to the United Nations in the post-World War II period, especially as it is the first incident of its kind in which a UN member state has devoured a neighboring sovereign state and attempted to abolish its existence and erase its identity. Egypt, which has condemned this action, reaffirms its solidarity with the fraternal people of Kuwait in their severe ordeal and calls on Iraq to completely submit to the international legitimacy and implement UN Security Council resolutions in this respect, beginning with Resolution 660 issued on 2 August 1990. We sincerely hope that the region and the world will be spared an armed conflcit which we do not want nor seek. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say: Our African continent, which represents one-third of the UN membership, was in the forefront of the support and backing of the United Nations, abiding by its principles and promoting its role. The United Nations has throughout its history been the place that witnessed brilliant pages of struggle against colonialism, foreign interference, and all kinds of racial discrimination. Although we welcome the steps taken by the De Klerk government, we continue to support sanctions against South Africa until racial discrimination has been completely eliminated.

In this regard, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added: We would like to register with admiration the African states' participation in shaping a number of charters regarding friendly international relations and establishing the bases of political, economic, and social rights as well as basic human rights. The African states have also participated in resolving the issues of disarmament, development problems, and the illegal drug trade. They even contributed to achieving women's rights. All such accomplishments merit admiration and pride. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say: Under the current international circumstances and after the removal of the specter of cold war between the two superpowers, we expect the United Nations to attach special importance to this region and work out a swift just settlement of the Palestinian problem, the core of the Middle East conflict. We need a settlement that would guarantee the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and their right to return to their land in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which have been approved by the PLO. We hope that Resolution 672 of 12 October 1990, which unanimously condemned the Israeli massacre of Palestinian people in the al-Aqsa Mosque, will open the door for the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and for Israel's commitment to protect civilians in accordance with Article IV of the Geneva Convention.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reiterated Egypt's commitment to support the Palestinian people's rights and to double its efforts within the United Nations to champion these rights and support the Palestinian people's struggle as part of the heroic intifadah against the Israeli occupation and repression.

Concluding his address, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed the importance of the role being played by the UN General Assembly as an effective framework for popular diplomacy and as a factor influencing the official moves of various world nations, as this would eventually achieve congruence between the official stands and the aspirations of the masses.

Butrus Ghali Meets With Senegalese Official

NC2510154390 Cairo MENA in English 1320 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, Oct. 25—(MENA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali conferred here today with Senegalese Foreign Minister [title as received] Oumar Seydina Sy, who is currently visiting Egypt with a message for President Husni Mubarak from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

The Senegalese minister said following the meeting that they exchanged viewpoints on the international situation, especially the Gulf crisis. The two countries' stands have been identical since the eruption of the crisis, he asserted, voicing hope that a peaceful settlement be reached.

Senegal, which will host the Organization of Islamic Conference summit, wishes for the best circumstances for the convocation of that summit and reconciliation among the Islamic countries, particularly the Arab ones, he added.

On bilateral cooperation, an agreement has been reached to convene the Egyptian-Senegalese joint committee soon, and the date and venue will be set through diplomatic channels, he said. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Envoy Notes Concern Over Passage of Time

NC2110165790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo. Al-Kandari stated that he explained the results of the popular conference, which was held in Jeddah, to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid. He emphasized the Kuwaiti people's unity behind their legitimate leadership, and praised Egypt's firm position, which President Mubarak has emphasized on every occasion and which calls for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy.

The Kuwaiti ambassador said that the passage of time is causing concern to Kuwaitis, especially since Iraq is

changing the Kuwaiti identity and replacing it with an Iraqi one, something which is contrary to human rights.

He said that the Manpower Ministry in Egypt is currently making the necessary arrangements to pay out the financial aid that Kuwait has decided to award to Egyptian workers who were forced out of Kuwait by the Iraqi invasion. He said that this aid is not a compensation for the losses they suffered, but rather, a Kuwaiti contribution.

Minister Gives Figures for Kuwait, Iraq Returnees

NC2510180090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—The number of Egyptians who have returned to the homeland from Kuwait and Iraq since the beginning of the current Gulf crisis, yesterday reached 370,274.

This was stated today by Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, who supervises the operations room serving the returnees. He said the returnees were transported on 728 flights and 244 ships. [passage omitted]

Wafd's Election Boycott Matter of 'Principle'

PM2410134190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Oct 90 p 1

[Editorial by Jamal Badawi: "Enjoy It, Government Party!!"]

[Text] The government will not understand that the Wafd Party's decision to boycott the elections proceeds from its principles because it believes in and refuses to bargain over democracy or participate in performing an absurd charade the end of which everyone knows in advance.

A serious decision like the decision to boycott the elections should be viewed from the angle of pan-Arab and principled stances which rise above all party maneuvers and points of disagreement or agreement with the regime. And from that angle too the Wafd took its historic position on the Gulf crisis. That is regardless of whether or not the government's position is consistent with the Wafd's position. This is because just as we want Egypt to be strong abroad, we want it to be stable within. And that can only be achieved through democracy, when the Egyptian people are the masters of their own decisionmaking and when there is no master over them. We want Egypt to live in a true democratic climate and have a serious parliamentary life (...). But the regime wants an assembly in which an overwhelming majority assembles to guarantee its existence forever.

The Wafd adheres to the essence—respect for the people's will. All the regime wants from democracy is its form. It wants all the parties to participate with it in a performance so that the world will think we are proceeding in the democracy march and participating in its known forms: general elections, competing parties, participating masses, and televised sessions.

Has the government taken a single practical measure to prove its sincere intentions to hold free elections? Has it at least stopped applying the emergency law during the elections? Has it entrusted the judiciary with supervising the election process? Has it classified the electoral constituencies correctly and fairly?

Nothing of that has happened, and the election process will be run with the same faces, the same measures, and the same equipment. Anyone who doubts what we say should pay a quick visit to government offices and departments in the governorates to see for himself how state safes are opened to NDP candidates to help themselves for their own use and for election bribery. Is it fair that public funds are squandered for the sake of buying consciences and influencing the toiling masses? Is it fair that state and local government departments are exploited to serve the government's candidates? Is it logical that the opposition parties compete with a party that has no roots in the Egyptian scene?

It is definitely an unequal battle between a party that owns all state resources and enjoys government influence, equipment, offices, funds, and vehicles on the one hand, and parties that own nothing except the masses' confidence and support.

So let the government party enjoy these gifts; let the government enjoy an assembly assembled by its own hands, and let the opposition enjoy its adherence to honorable principles and values.

Paper on Opposition Decision To Boycott Elections

JN2510155690 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 22 Oct 90 pp 1, 6

[Editorial by Mustafa Kamil Murad: "Boycotting the Elections and Changing Policies!"]

[Text] At a press conference yesterday, the opposition declared that it will boycott the general People's Assembly elections. The boycott was declared by the Wafd, Labor, Muslim Brotherhood, and Liberal Parties. The National Progressive Unionist Grouping declared that it will take part in the elections. This means that the overwhelming majority of the opposition represented by the above parties has decided to boycott the elections for political and constitutional reasons related to the main basis of democracy, which is the freedom and honesty of elections and noninterference of the government or any other party in influencing the opinion of voters. This is in view of the following reasons:

First: Several weeks ago, the opposition parties submitted to President Mubarak ideas about the amendments which need to be introduced into the political rights law to guarantee the freedom and honesty of elections. The most important ideas about the proposed amendments were:

A. Judges should actually supervise the elections in accordance with the Constitution. This necessitates that judges head the general committees that are distributed among polling centers and police stations, as well the subcommittees distributed in villages and rural areas, which number approximately 23,000.

A committee, we know, is comprised of a chairman, secretary, representatives for the candidates, a ballot box, and a list of voters including between 500 and 700 names. These voters usually represent a residential area of 2,000-3,000 citizens, or 400-600 families. This equals a residential quarter in a town, or a part of a village. These 23,000 committees are distributed among 6,000 centers such as schools, hospitals, government institutions, etc. The government argued that there are not enough judges to head all the subcommittees. Therefore, the opposition proposed that the elections be held over two or three days. There was a precedent for this in the thirties. Besides, the Constitution does not object to that. The opposition made another proposal, which was that judges should head the 6,000 polling centers among which the subcommittees are distributed. There are over 8,000 judges, public prosecutors, and administrative public prosecutors. This means that there are enough members of the judicial authority to head the centers. The objective is clear. Given the nature of their job, judges are honest and impartial. Under the real supervision of judges, there will be no rigging of the elections by the marking of the ballots of those who fail to appear at the concerned ballot center. Such ballots amount to 70 percent of the overall number, which totals 14 million.

B. The electorate should put their signatures alongside their names on the electoral rolls after they cast their ballots in order to make it possible to determine the actual number of those who have voted. The reason for this is that since general elections were first held in Egypt in 1924, it has not been possible to establish how many turned out because the actual number was always hidden by the fact that voters neither signed nor fingerprinted alongside their names on the electoral rolls.

C.—Emergency laws should be suspended from the day the electorate is invited to vote for the National Assembly to the day the returns are announced in order to keep competent government authorities from detaining representatives of the opposition party candidates in the election committees on the eve of polling, and then releasing them on the following day after the committee gates are closed and voting ends. This is to ensure that election committees are not left without the representatives of the opposition, and thus make it easier to tamper with the elections and their integrity.

Second: The government has granted none of the opposition's demands. Indeed, a presidential decree effected amendments to the election law, thereby applying the system of individual constituencies rather than that of proportional tickets. The government has also introduced amendments to the law governing the exercise of political rights. Given the extreme importance of these two laws and their far-reaching effect on free and fair elections, the government might have consulted the political parties in the spirit of the holy Koran: And consult in affairs of the moment [Koranic verse]. But the government has failed to do this—either directly or indirectly. Instead, it went ahead and unilaterally introduced whatever amendments it chose—something no fair-minded observer would deem conducive to fair and free elections.

Third: The government distributed constituencies in a manner inconsistent with any logic, and ridiculously and inexplicably split them up, especially those where party leaders are running—Kafr Shukr (Khalid Muhyi-al-Din), Shirbin (Ibrahim Shukri), Misr al Qadimah (Mustafa Murad). We will keep a record of the amendments icorporated into the parliamentary system of Egypt in order for researchers in the years ahead to see how Egyptian governments have unfairly tampered with constituencies on geographical and demographical grounds. They will see how the government haphazardly and childishly split up constituencies in the manner in which Israel was established so as to become a wedge between the eastern and western wings of the Arab world.

In the light of the aforementioned facts, it becomes clear that the government's intention is unambiguous—that is, to control all the constituencies and seats of the Assembly. It has set its mind on this goal and has made plans to achieve it so as to exclude the opposition from parliamentary action. The government has not responded to any of the opposition's requests and has not consulted it on any of the laws it has passed concerning voting, political rights, or the division of constituencies. If this is so, then the opposition is left with one choice only; namely, to leave the whole arena to the government so it can do whatever it wants, to let it form a national Assembly which conforms to its desires, and to let it pursue its approach. Thiswill take us gradually away from the road of democracy until the parliament becomes a toy in the hands of the government, considering that the Council of Ministers has become devoid of any value or weight; its meetings are now few and far between, and ministers are now equal to the ministrys' under secretaries. Moreover, the government indirectly controls the judiciary by appointing many judges as legal advisers of public institutions and the ministries and establishments affiliated to them, to the extent that a judge has now become an adviser to the minister, while at the same time being the one who abolishes the decisions of the minister. All authority and duties now rest withn President Husni Mubarak. The inevitable result of this is:

First, the spread of unemployment: We have 3 million unemployed, which amounts to 20 percent of the manpower.

Second, the poor service rendered by government institutions in all walks of life, which aggravate people's suffering.

Third, the continuing rapid increase in the price of goods and services as a result of inflation and the disparity between wages and prices.

Fourth, defective planning: The state has spent more than 40 percent of its investments, 20 billion [currency not specified] of the five-year plan on utilities. This has led to an imbalance between the production of goods and that of services, which has resulted in the inflation we pointed out earlier.

Fifth, the decline in investments and the failure or halting of many investment projects as a result of the devaluation of the Egyptian pound and the scarcity of the dollar.

This is the political situation in Egypt which has resulted from the absence of the principle of separation of authority and the concentration of authority. This, in our opinion, is primarily due to the fact that cultural parliaments in the past period have not been true representatives of public opinion and began to oscillate among various systems, adopting them at times and relinquishing them at others; for example, the system of absolute lists and percentages, etc. Thus, things are moving from bad to worse. We pray to God to keep us safe and to guide the decisionmakers and the president of Egypt and enlighten them about reality so they can become aware of the poor situation which is currently prevailing after public and political crimes have increased in the Egyptian theater. The opposition's boycott of the elections is a warning to the government and its party to awaken from their slumber and discover the real direction events have taken and not be full of arrogance.

'Hundreds' of Islamist Suspects Released

JN2410193590 Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 17 October 90 p 1

[Text] The Higher State Intelligence Department branches in Cairo and all other governorates have released hundreds of Islamic group members because no incriminating evidence was brought against them confirming their involvement in the assassination of former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

The State Intelligence Department had arrested more than 1,000 Islamists in the wake of the assassination of al-Mahjub to interrogate them and learn whether they extended any assistance to the culprits, or if they hade anything to do with the assassination. Most of those arrested were released when it was proven that they had nothing to do with the incident.

Obstruction of Arab League Transfer Criticized

NC2610113390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0717 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says that the suspect moves being made by Saddam Husayn's gang of five to obstruct the transfer of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo reveal that the Kuwait invasion conspiracy was also aimed at others, primarily Egypt, if the gang was unsuccessful in setting Egypt to accept the despicable crime.

In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR says that the Iraqi ruler and the gang that supports him for his shining promises were not content with fragmenting the Arab world with the treacherous invasion of Kuwait. He and the evil gang that blesses his crimes are trying to implement another part of Saddam's plan: To subjugate the Arab League to his wishes and whims. The paper says that the dwarfs of the gang of five are incapable of implementing the plot to keep the Arab League headquarters in Tunis. No one can set aside a resolution adopted by all Arab leaders, including the gang members themselves.

AL-AKHBAR asserts that all those participating in this dirty game know better than anyone that it is impossible for these maneuvers, designed to obstruct the implementation of the Arab summit resolutions, to succeed. They realize that their schemes will not have better results than their previous ploys. In conclusion, the paper says that their hostility toward Egypt deceived them into thinking that they could punish the state that everyone recognizes as the heart and pioneer of Arabism.

Paper Views 'Arafat Plan for New Arab League

NC2610105290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Today's AL-AHRAM cites reports from political circles in the Gulf that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is promoting a proposal to establish an Arab league in Tunis. The new league would be composed of Iraq, Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Sudan, and Palestine, thus excluding the rest of the Arab countries. AL-AHRAM says that the majority of these countries have rejected this illusory plan that would deepen and affirm division and fragmentation in the Arab world, particularly since not one Arab country supports the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and since the bone of contention revolves around how to oust the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restore the legitimate government there. Any Arab dispute, however deep, can ultimately be confined and contained out of respect for the supreme Arab interests that concern every Arab.

Cairo on Improving Transmissions to Saudi Arabia

NC2310143190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Today President Muhammad Husni Mubarak instructed Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif to make Egyptian radio and television transmissions reach the Hafar al-Batin area. Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has also given instructions in coordination with Mr. Safwat al-Sharif and the Saudi Information Ministry to retransmit Egyptian radio and television programs to the area.

Safwat al-Sharif has stated that Egyptian radio and television programs will reach the area of Hafar al-Batin in accordance with President Mubarak's instructions. He pointed out that King Fahd has instructed the Saudi Information Ministry to coordinate with the Egyptians on this.

Al-Sharif noted that programs transmitted by Egyptian television's first channel will reach Saudi Arabia via the Egyptian satellite channel on the Arab satellite, which will begin experimental transmission in November upon the completion of the ground station being constructed by the Egyptian national telecommunications authority.

He added that media cooperation between the Egyptian and Saudi Information Ministries will enable the Egyptian Armed Forces operating in Saudi Arabia to receive television programs more clearly. He noted that a working team of engineers from the Egyptian Information Ministry will arrive in the region to conduct field studies, in collaboration with the Saudi Information Ministry, on the fine-tuning of radio transmission and to specify the most suitable receivers for obtaining best reception.

Navy Commander Notes Modernization Efforts

NC2210073890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 22 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] On the occasion of Navy Day, coinciding with the sinking of the destroyer Elat on 21 October 1967, AL-AHRAM cites remarks by the Navy commander. He says that the Navy has finalized a deal to purchase a number of modern U.S.-made mine-sweepers and expects to receive them soon. The Navy has also signed a contract to modernize the submarines already in service. The modernization program is going according to schedule and in accordance with Navy specifications, the commander noted.

AL-AHRAM cites the Navy commander as saying that the Egyptian Navy is capable of enforcing stability in the region thanks to its modern equipment. The commander said the Navy is capable of keeping Egyptian ports open and protecting the lines of transport and trade. The Navy also helps in protecting our shores from pollution and is coordinating with other other Armed Forces services and government departments.

Suez Canal Official Cited on Revenue Losses

NC2210115490 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 15 Oct 90 p 13

[Text] In a statement to AL-SHIRA', Suez Canal Authority Chairman 'Adil 'Izzat expressed concern about the continued decrease in Suez Canal revenues since the beginning of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The losses are expected to reach $400 million by the end of 1990 should the sea blockade against Iraq and Kuwait continue.

He said the total stoppage of the pumping of oil from Iraq and Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion in early August, and the embargo imposed in Iraq caused a loss of seven million tons of oil per year, which used to transit the Suez Canal bound for Europe.

He noted that it will be disastrous if events compel Saudi Arabia and some Gulf states to stop pumping their oil. In this case, he said, Egypt will be deprived of the revenues incurred by the passage of Saudi oil in the Canal, which is estimated at 16 million tons each year.

He pointed out that the increased insurance rate for Gulf-bound ships has caused more shipowners to decline using the Canal.

Libya

JANA Commemorates Day of Mourning

LD2510203490 Tripoli JANA in English 1825 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tomour [October] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—On the Day of Mourning, the day in which we remember the forefathers who paid the price for the liberty of this people by their souls and bloods and suffered the conditions of banishments from their home, JANA's local affairs editor wrote saying:

When we commemorate the Day of Mourning, the day in which we remember the good deeds of the forefathers we want to give the civilized example of humane highness and the depth of awareness in history. We also want mankind of this world to witness the size of the horrific crime committed by the Italian invaders against the sons of this part of the Arab homeland, the heroic Libyan Arab people who defended its pride and its honour and paid the price of its liberty in hearts, souls and blood and whose sons were taken to exile in one of the first crimes by imperialist at all and along the history...[sentence as received]

As we commemorate this day, we are not commemorating it to cry and to ask kindness from anyone. We do not commemorate it from a weak position or a low-down position, we are commemorating it and we are the strong who completed the expulsion of the Italian invaders from our country routing out all traces of them together the American and British bases from our free soil forcing the invaders to return from where they came.

We also commemorating this day and we are the only one master people in the globe which govern itself by itself in accordance with a humane civilized 3d universal theory the most important of its foundations is the civilized aspect within which framework comes our commemoration of the Day of Mourning in which there is loyalty for the forefathers and by which we want to establish a fact that the colonial eras was a historic fall and a big moral decline in the history of mankind which should not be repeated and the peoples that suffered in the past from the crimes of colonialism and invaders

must not renew the opportunity for colonialism to be repeated and allow the dreaming invaders to return and do the same again...

And from the position of power also we want to commemorate this day by registering that we are a people belonging to a noble nation which had its deeds and its morals and noble doings. To a nation which knows what to arrange and how and knows well how to forgive its enemies and in constant readiness at the same time to extend the hand of cooperation and contribute in providing stability and confidence in the relations between nations according to moral constants and new values in international relations in which the sovereignty of nations is respected and their right in life is considered sacred to live in dignity and pride...

To the forefathers in the Day of Mourning we ask for mercy and esteem. To them the high status and to them is the promise from this generation and from generations that will be protecting freedom over this lively land for which they struggled, martyred and banished. The freedom that was achieved—thanks to the great of Et Fateh Revolution which avenged the forefathers. And to them is the pledge that we are going to remain walking with pride in their heroism and jihad. We will continue the search for our forefathers who were harmed in the exiles and the tyranny of expatriation on the homeland.

Observance Detailed

LD2610105990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0943 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 26 Oct (JANA)—Lights were switched off in every street and square throughout the Great Jamahiriyah (Libya) as a part of the Libyan Arab people's mourning over the largest expulsion, banishment, and killing operation carried out by the odious Italian invasion forces during their occupation of Libya in 1911. Sadness and mourning will prevail today, 26 October, throughout the Great Jamahiriyah. All movement will stop at midday today, flags will be lowered, all local and international flights by all airlines will be suspended at every airport in the Great Jamahiriyah, and all telephone and telegraph communications will be stopped from 0600 until 1800. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Returns From Sudan, Uganda

LD2510213590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution returned to the Great Jamahiriyah this evening at the end of his six-day visit to Sudan and Uganda. He was welcomed by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, Colonel Mustafa al- Kharrubi, and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, and members of the General People's Committee.

He left Kampala this afternoon, where President Yoweri Museveni led those who said farewell to the brother leader of the revolution at Entebbe Airport. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Government, PLO Issue Joint Statement on Gulf

LD2510180590 Rabat MAP in English 1318 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Dakar, Oct 25 (MAP)—Mauritania and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) have called for a peaceful political settlement to the Gulf crisis in an Arab framework.

In a joint statement released Wednesday in Nouakchott, on the morrow of the short visit of the Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to Mauritania, the two sides noted that at both the Arab and international levels, there is an agreement to avoid the war.

'It is the whole Arab nation which will be spared the catastrophe and world peace will hence be preserved', the communique, broadcast by Radio Mauritania, stated.

The radio also quoted PLO chairman as saying that the linkage Iraqi President Saddam Husayn made between the Gulf crisis and the whole Middle East pending issues, including Israel's occupation of Palestine, has prompted favourable reactions.

On the latest slaughter of Palestinians on the esplanade of the Al-Aqsa mosque, 'Arafat said the events reflect the determination of the Palestinian people to defend these holy shrines, stressing that the PLO endeavours, through the UNO, so that there will be no discrimination in the enforcement of international law.

As to the PLO's request for sending international forces to protect the holy shrines and the Palestinian population, 'Arafat [said] the move is part of this logic.

Sudan

Government Says 22 SPLA Rebels Killed

EA2510105590 Khartoum SUNA in French 1613 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Oct (SUNA)—The People's Armed Forces of the Yei area, Equatorial Region, have inflicted on the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] 22 deaths and a great number of wounded, and have captured a large quantity of ammunition and equipment. According to a military source, the Armed Forces in (?Butayr) attacked the rebels of this region and crushed them after fierce fighting. Only one soldier of the Armed Forces was wounded during this fighting.

37 Rebels Reportedly Killed in Upper Nile

EA2410152190 Khartoum SUNA in French 0909 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Thirty-seven were killed and several others wounded during recent fighting between forces of the pro-government Anyanya-Two Movement militia and troops of John Garang's rebel movement in the Melut region, northern Upper Nile Province, according to a military source. According to the same source, forces of the Anyanya-Two Movement captured a large quantity of arms and ammunitions and took a rebel officer prisoner.

Al-Bashir Receives Uganda-Sudan Committee

EA2510115690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the council of ministers, met, yesterday, at the general secretariat of the council of ministers members of the joint Sudan-Uganda ministerial committee chaired by Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu Salih, member of the RCC and interior minister, and Mr. Ibrahim Mukiibi, Ugandan interior minister.

Sudan's ambassador to Uganda said the committee briefed Lt. Gen. 'Umar on the results it had achieved, which aim at the continued management of affairs of the two countries by placing them in the proper framework and by developing bilateral relations. His excellency added that the meeting also reviewed peace efforts in Sudan and Uganda's efforts in this context.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar praised Uganda's efforts to achieve peace in southern Sudan. [passage omitted]

For his part, Mr. Ibrahim Mukiibi, leader of the Ugandan side in the meetings of the joint committee, hailed the outcome of the meetings. He said his country would strive to act on those results in order to achieve the joint aims of the two countries. Mr. Mukiibi added that relations between the two countries are growing continuously and making noticeable progress. He asserted that his country would strive to strengthen its relations with Sudan in all fields.

Sudanese-Ugandan Committee Group View Relations

EA2510143990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1013 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Oct (SUNA)—Maj-Gen Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and the interior minister and the chairman of the Sudanese side to the recent session of joint Sudanese-Ugandan ministerial committee, has described the security agreement signed between the two countries last April as conducive to facilitating the follow-up of security developments by Sudan and Uganda. In a press statement yesterday, Maj-Gen Abu-Salih confirmed that the two countries are convinced with the importance of putting into action their agreements on different issues, stressing that the recent talks were conducted in a cordial atmosphere.

Meanwhile the Ugandan delegation leader and the interior minister, Ibrahim Mukiibi, told SUNA that the commercial exchange between Sudan and Uganda is progressing satisfactory. He said Uganda is ready to supply Sudan with tea quantities, vehicle batteries and plastic products. Mukiibi added that Uganda had (?invited) a cultural and youth delegation besides a football team to participate in the coming national day of Uganda in next January.

Finance Minister on Impact of Gulf Crisis

EA2510124190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Mr 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning, has affirmed that the Gulf crisis has directly caused a reduction in the revenues of the free banking market in that the flow of remittances from Sudanese who used to work in Iraq and Kuwait has stopped. The minister added that the reduction in the revenues of the free banking market has affected the importation of commodities financed by the banking market. In the light of this, the supply of those commodities has been transferred to commercial investment.

Tunisia

President Rearranges Governors Corps

LD2510195490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met Interior Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh this afternoon at the republican palace, in Carthage.

Escheikh after the meeting declared the head of state made the following changes in the governors corps:

—Abdallah Kaabi will move from the governorate of Aryanah to the governorate of Tunis;

—Habib Deldoul from the governorate of Susah to the governorate of Nabul,

—Mabrouk Bahri from the governorate of Qibili to the governorate of Qasrayn,

—Hedi Ayache from the governorate of Qasrayn to the governorate of Bajah,

—and Mohamed El Merzouki from the governorate of Al Kaf to the governorate of Tatawin.

He also appointed:

—Abderrahmane Bouhrizi governor of Aryanah,

—Mohamed Rahmani governor of Bizerte,

—Rafaat Hiri governor of Susah,

—Reda Mokrani governor of Mahdia,

—Moncef Ribalti governor of Al Kaf,

—Labidi Berghoumi governor of Qibili,

—and Moncef Harbi governor of Madaniyin.

Al-Nahdah Islamic Movement Members Sentenced

LD2510212990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] In Tunisia, the test of strength between Islamists and the government continues. Jail sentences, ranging from eight months to one year, were passed today on seven supporters of the opposition Al-Nahdah Islamic Movement for organizing unlicensed demonstrations last September. These disciplinary measures come within the context of the judicial prosecutions against a large number of the cadres of the Al-Nahdah Islamic Movement since the start of October for unlicensed demonstrations and for carrying weapons.

The struggle between the authorities and the Islamists in Tunisia has intensified since last month following the authorities' decision to ban political and religious activities in the mosques of the capital and its western suburb. The Al-Nahdah Islamic Movement did not observe this ban.

Oman

Mubarak Terms Tour Successful, Reiterates Stand

NC2510085790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0807 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Muscat, 25 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described his tour of four Arab capitals as successful by any standard. He added: We are all agreed that no one wants war at all, but at the same time legitimacy must be restored and the law of the jungle must not prevail.

President Mubarak added that all the leaders want the crisis to end in a solution that will spare the region a war. He noted, however, that there can be no retraction of the stand urging an Iraqi withdrawal of Kuwait and restoration of its legitimate government.

He asserted that no one has the right to change rulers as he wants and declared: "Only the people have the right to change their rulers. They will not allow any foreigner to intervene in their affairs and to impose what he wants."

In a statement to the chief editors of Egyptian national and party newspapers who are accompanying him on his trip, President Mubarak said that the leaders of the Gulf countries will examine the situation and assess it themselves with regard to the stage that will follow the solution of the Gulf crisis. He said the aim of this assessment is to establish an inter-Arab defense system to protect the region from any future dangers, with the stipulation that foreign countries not assist in this matter other than by supplying requested arms.

President Mubarak said that he had told the leaders of the Gulf countries he visited that Egypt is perfectly willing to cooperate with them in any future plans they have regarding the region's defense.

Qatar

Further Reportage on Mubarak Visit to Doha

Amir Holds Banquet

NC2410210390 Cairo MENA in English 1932 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, Oct. 24 (MENA)—Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani gave a dinner banquet tonight in Doha Palace in honour of visiting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation. Attending were Crown Prince and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah, Al Thani, shaykhs, ministers, and heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Qatar.

The members of the information and press delegations accompanying President Mubarak, as well as the Egyptian ambassador here and the embassy staff attended the banquet.

Holds Talks With Amir

NC2410221590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The official talks between the Egyptian side, led by President Husni Mubarak, and the Qatari side, led by Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the state of Qatar, began in Doha this evening. President Husni Mubarak and Saykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani later held a bilateral meeting that was attended by Saykh Hamad Bin-Khaiifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister.

During the discussions, a comprehensive review was made of the situation and the developments in the region in light of the new developments in the Gulf crisis. The two sides emphasized their declared and firm stand of condemning the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and calling for the complete and unconditional withrawal of the Iraqi Forces, and for the restoration of the legitimate authority in Kuwait.

The two countries' views were identical on the need to completely abide by and meticulously implement the international resolutions issued on the crisis. The amir of Qatar expressed his great appreciation of the clear and strong principled stand that Egypt, under the leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, is adopting on the Gulf issue in support of right and justice in confronting aggression and occupation.

The discussions also dealt with other issues, including the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the Palestinian issue, and the recent developments in Lebanon. On the level of bilateral relations, the two sides expressed satisfaction with these relations' growth and development in the various fields in the interest of the two countries and the two fraternal peoples.

Saudi Arabia

Primakov Expected To Meet Foreign Minister

NC2510104590 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 25 (AFP)—Soviet presidential envoy Yevgeniy Primakov was expected to visit Saudi Arabia Friday as part of a tour of Arab states that will take him back to Iraq to discuss the Gulf crisis, a well-informed source said here Thursday. Mr. Primakov met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad early this month and has also visited Muscat, Rome, Paris and Washington in a bid to help settle the Gulf crisis triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

Mr. Primakov will meet Saturday in the western Saudi city of Jeddah with Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal to examine the latest developments and efforts by Moscow to reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis guaranteeing the "withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait."

The presidential envoy will be the second high-ranking Soviet official to visit Saudi Arabia since the resumption of diplomatic ties in September between Moscow and Riyadh after a 50-year break. Constantin Katushev, president of a Soviet state committee for external economic relations, is currently in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Primakov was Wednesday in Cairo on the first step of his return visit to the region. On Thursday he was scheduled to meet Syrian officials in Damascus and was to return to Egypt on Friday for talks with President Husni Mubarak, currently visiting Oman. The Soviet official was expected to end his regional tour with a visit to Baghdad.

King Fahd Receives Phone Call From Bush

LD2510200390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, today received a telephone call from the President of the United States, His Excellency George Bush. The current situation in the Arabian Gulf and issues concerning the two countries were discussed.

Washington Envoy Stresses No Change on Kuwait

PM2510113790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Oct 90 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Following Meeting With Baker, Prince Bandar Says: No Change in Saudi Position"]

[Text] Washington, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi ambassador to the United States, yesterday emphasized that Saudi Arabia is determined to secure unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, and that it has not changed that position. Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and on his way to the meeting he told reporters: "Saudi Arabia has not changed its position at all."

And following the 90-minute meeting Prince Bandar denied reports that Iraq was moving its forces to northern Kuwait, probably in preparation for a partial withdrawal. He said: "I have not seen anything that inspires optimism recently." He added that there are no political indications that Iraq is ready to withdraw.

Prince Bandar said that, if Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was listening to him, he must not be influenced by any delusion and that Saudi Arabia is determined to ensure that aggression makes no gains and is not rewarded. He added that Saudi Arabia's aim is still unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government. Prince Bandar went on to say that, if Kuwait chooses to negotiate with Iraq, that is for it to decide.

Official Says 120,000 Kuwaitis Entered Country

NC2510171490 Paris AFP in English 1529 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Khafji, Saudi Arabia, Oct 25 (AFP)—A total of 120,000 Kuwaitis have fled into Saudi Arabia through the sole border crossing point here since mid-September but the exodus has slowed to some 300 people a day, a senior Saudi official said Thursday. The official, a top administrator for the Khafji region bordering Kuwait, also said that no Iraqi spies or suspected agents had tried to cross the frontier.

The official, who declined to be identified, said he did not expect a large number of Kuwaitis to try to enter Saudi Arabia with the expiry of the Iraqi-imposed deadline on Thursday for Kuwaitis to take up Iraqi citizenship. "Most of the people in Kuwait who like to come to Saudi Arabia have already entered," said the official. "The people now who stay in Kuwait, they like to stay there."

The Saudi official said that 120,000 Kuwaitis had crossed into Saudi Arabia through Khafji since Iraqi troops unexpectedly began allowing them to leave on September 15. The official said that about 300 people had been crossing into Saudi Arabia at Khafji each day for the past week.

He also said that "not more than 20" people were currently being held at a processing center along the border. "Some of them are not Kuwaitis," the official said. "They don't have any nationalities. They don't have any identification."

Kuwaitis entering Saudi Arabia at Khafji over the past month have said that Iraqi troops strip them of their passports and other identity papers before allowing them to leave. "When they enter we give them (identification) certificates because most of them don't have passports," the Saudi official said.

He said refugees were being kept at the processing center for several days and were being given "any kind of help, money or anything." Those allowed to leave were being housed in various cities around the country including Riyadh, Jeddah and Medina, he said.

Reporters who made a brief visit to the processing center on Thursday found it virtually deserted except for some new arrivals. Two weeks ago the camp housed more than 1,000 people waiting to be processed by Saudi and Kuwaiti government-in-exile officials.

One man who crossed the border alone in his white Mercedes Benz on Thursday said that Kuwaitis were refusing to turn in their Kuwaiti identification for Iraqi-issued papers. "They are trying to change our identification from Kuwait to Iraqi but we refuse," said the man, who identified himself as Falah, a telecommunications ministry employee. "This is the most good reason to leave. [sentence as received] I don't want to change my nationality."

He also said that to receive gasoline, for example, Kuwaitis were being made to change their license plates, passports and other identification. "I left because the situation was so bad and dangerous for me," he said, adding that Iraqi troops were arresting young men in Kuwait City virtually every day and taking some of them to Iraq.

Foreign Minister Meets ICO Secretary General

LD2410151990 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, conferred this morning at his office at the ministry in Riyadh with Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Secretary General Mr. Hamid Algabid. During the meeting they discussed issues of interest to the Islamic nation.

British Commander Says Sanctions Effect Felt

NC2410131090 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, Oct 24 (AFP)—Economic sanctions against Iraq are "beginning to bite" and Iraqi forces are having difficulties obtaining aviation fuel and lubricants for tanks, British Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine said here Wednesday. "I'm not going to say that the application of sanctions is going to bring Saddam Husayn down in the next few weeks or even months," Sir Patrick, the joint commander of British forces in the Gulf, told reporters.

"But life will get more difficult for him as time goes by if we can enforce the embargo effectively, which we appear to be doing at the moment," he said. "There is some evidence that (sanctions) are beginning to bite," Sir Patrick said. "I think we can see that the refinement of crude oil to aviation fuel, lubricants to tanks and other vehicles is becoming more of a problem."

Sir Patrick noted there was no guarantee the U.N.-imposed sanctions would bring about an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. He said military and other options were being kept open. "I can't be confident that the sanctions will work to the extent that they will force him to withdraw from Kuwait," he said. "If after a period of time our political leaders decide they have given him long enough there will be other options open to them."

Sir Patrick said there was no evidence of a partial withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

"He is well dug in in Kuwait," he said. "I can see absolutely no sign at all that he is planning to withdraw from any part of Kuwait.

"There have been fairly regular tactical redeployments of individual units but the overall trend has been toward increasing his military presence in Kuwait and it seems to me that he is determined at the moment to stay there."

Sir Patrick also said he had seen no evidence of a "softening" of the Saudi position on a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"I don't think it is softening. I think (the Saudis) are quite determined that through pressure of one kind or another we are going to get Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait," he said. Sir Patrick, who is based in London, is the joint commander of British forces in the Gulf along with the general on the ground, Sir Peter de la Billiere.

Front Calls For Saving Holy Places

JN2410200790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1803 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Oct (INA)—The Front for the Liberation of the Holy Lands in Najd and Hejaz-the General Command of the Revolutionary Council [Jabhat Tahrir al-Aradi al-Muqaddasah fi Najd wa al-Hijaz al-Qiyadah al-'Ammah lil-Majlis al-Thawri] has called on the sons of the Arabian Peninsula to save their sanctities from enemy desecration. In a statement distributed in Riyadh today, the Front reviewed the practices of the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Fahd, his clique, and his affiliation with colonialist and Zionist circles.

The statement said: The day has come when the cover behind which Fahd and his devious clique have been hiding since the middle of this century has been removed. They have tried to mislead our people in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] that they are the imams of Muslims and the protectors of the Islamic sanctities. The statement said that since the Gulf developments began, agent Fahd rushed to bring his Zionist and American allies and masters to desecrate our holy lands and protect his corrupt and tyrant regime.

It adds that no matter what excuses the Fahd regime makes to justify his request for help from the Zionists and Americans, the Arab people have realized the designs that this tyrant regime has been implementing in favor of its American masters and against the entire Arab world. The Front called on the protectors of the Ka'bah and the city of the Prophet [Mecca] to save the Islamic sanctities from the desecration of the enemy. It said the dream of the Zionists has been realized at the hands of the betrayer of the two holy mosques, and they are now occupying and spoiling our sacred land.

It said that thousands of poor and needy people are dying of hunger in our land and in Sudan, Egypt, Somalia, Yemen, and other Islamic countries, while agent Fahd spends millions of dollars on the soldiers of colonialist countries in Najd and Hejaz. The Front said that members of the ruling family in Najd and Hejaz waste billions of dollars on their pleasures in the nightclubs of the United States and Western countries. It added that it possesses the documents, recordings, and film clips that substantiate this fact about the practices of Fahd and his clique.

In its statement, the Front reviewed what is happening inside Najd and Hejaz and said that its current regime is an oppressive dictatorship. Whoever tries to rectify its corruption and deviance is thrown into prisons and killed in the most evil ways. It added that position and power are distributed among them as though they were the representatives and deputies of God Almighty. The fate of any nationalist movement that wants to purify the country from the defilement of this corrupt family and retrieve the essence of Islam which they have desecrated is death and execution.

The Front said the members of the ruling family rob the people in Najd and Hejaz of the money they earn from the oil resources. They then deposit this money in U.S. and Western banks and spend it on corruption wherever they reside by throwing it over the heads of dancers. They deal in drugs and push them in the Arab world. Some even trade in drugs.

The statement pointed out that the Fahd regime is investing the people's money and riches and the resources of the land in the United States and Western countries. The gains from these funds are being paid to the Zionist entity, which is occupying Palestine, in the form of U.S. aid in weapons or financial grants. The statement added that in this manner, these Arab funds become a source of strength for our enemies to fight us in all military, economic, and educational fields. They become the reason for our holy land's occupation and the defeat of our Arab nation.

In conclusion of its statement, the Front affirmed that the betrayer of the two holy mosques and servant of the U.S. and Zionist interests is supporting some tribes in neighbouring Arab countries and some agent individuals with the objective of destroying the ruling systems in these countries to serve the base imperialist goals and schemes. The Front for the Liberation of the Holy Lands in Najd and Hejaz called for sacrifices to topple this regime, which is considered an extension of foreign colonialism and the implementing hand of its colonialist schemes in the region.

Government Contemplates 'Buying' Egypt's Debts

NC2410175490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Saudi Information Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sha'ir has said that Saudi Arabia is considering buying Egypt's debts. In an exclusive interview for Friday's edition [26 October] of AL-MUSAWWAR, al-Sha'ir said that Egypt has never asked Saudi Arabia to forgive its debts, which is, he added, an indication of Egypt's greatness and mettle.

As for Saudi-Yemeni ties, the Saudi minister said: We have given Yemen some privileged treatment and then retracted it. This was up to us to decide. We are not being unfair to the Yemeni people. The Yemeni leaders are responsible for what happened, and they are the same leaders who told the Yemeni people wrong information about the Saudis. Not one Yemeni has been assaulted in Saudi Arabia.

Shaykh al-Sha'ir said that several countries have asked Saudi Arabia to give them the same treatment Yemen receives. It was logical that either we treat everyone equally or we reconsider the matter and end the inequity, so we decided to abolish the privileged treatment of all workers in Saudi Arabia, regardless of their nationality.

As for the Jordanians' position in Saudi Arabia in the light of King Husayn's stands and Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan's criticism of the king, the Saudi information minister said: The amity, sympathy, support, and exchanges between Jordan and Saudi Arabia make it difficult for King Fahd to see his brother, King Husayn, in this unbelievable position. Al-Sha'ir added that the brother Jordanians are being treated well in Saudi Arabia and that the government has taken no measures against them. The Saudi public, however, has begun to change its opinions about Jordan, not least because of the Jordanian press' attacks on Saudi Arabia, al-Sha'ir said.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Addresses Supreme Council on Gulf Situation

JN2310130890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has expressed his sorrow and regret at the current situation in the Arab region and the results of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti territory. This invasion is an aggression on an Arab Muslim country that resulted in displacing its people and creating division in Arab ranks. In an address to the members of the UAE Supreme Council today, Shaykh Zayid said that some Arab countries—in the wake of the Iraqi invasion—only called for the withdrawal of the foreign forces from the region, not for the withdrawal of the aggressor Iraq which occupies Kuwait, adding that some Arab countries call for an Arab solution. He asked: Where are the Arabs who will resolve this issue?

Shaykh Zayid affirmed the need to be alert and vigilant, to benefit from what happened, and not to be lax in protecting the territory, homeland, and citizens. Shaykh Zayid said: The State of Kuwait that was erased is a state like us and next to it there is a larger country—that is, Saudi Arabia. Despite this, Kuwait was erased and the aggressor did not take into account Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Cooperation Counci [GCC], the Arab League, or the Security Council. His highness added: The aggressor paid no attention to anyone, carried out his act, and—after Kuwait—he wanted to devour us all in the region.

With regard to the claims of linking the issue of Kuwait with the Palestine question, His Highness Shaykh Zayid

said: Did Kuwait belong to Israel and was it occupied by the Arabs so as to exchange it with Palestine? What is this strange talk? Kuwait is the land of a people who are our brothers as well as yours. It has nothing to do with Palestine. And the occupation of Kuwait is an inter-Arab issue while the Palestine question is an Arab-Israeli issue; it is a problem that has been continuing for years. Nothing at all links these issues.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid said: We all are Arabs and brothers; and our territory is one. And as we moved within the GCC together with our brothers in the other Arab countries to implement the Arab League Charter for the sake of the issue of Kuwait, we also moved to reinforce the efforts of our brothers in the Arab League. Although what took place in the region is painful and regrettable, it is also a warning to us as well as to our brothers in the Gulf states.

Official Meets British Forces Commander

JN2010174290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Dubai, 20 Oct (WAKH)—Major General Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Rashid al-Maktum, commander of the central region in the United Arab Emirates, met here today with Lieutenant General Sir Peter de la Billiere, commander of the British forces in the Middle East. They discussed the current military situation in the region and military ccoperation between the two countries.

President Sends Messages to World Leaders

JN2510182190 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 25 (GNA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today sent written messages to Presidents Carlos Menem of Argentina, Francesco Cossiga of Italy and Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela.

The letters dealt with the latest developments in the region as well as friendly relations among their countries. The messages were conveyed through diplomatic channels in reply to similar ones Shaykh Zayid had received from these leaders.

Yemen

Committee Issues Statement on Gulf, Palestinians

JN2010193790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The Standing Committee [of the General People's Congress] concluded the meetings of its tenth ordinary session under the chairmanship of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the General People's Congress. In its meeting today, the Committee resumed discussion of items on its agenda, approving the draft plan for the political action program of the General People's Congress after wide-ranging discussions and remarks by members.

The Standing Committee issued a concluding statement at the end of the meetings of its tenth ordinary round. The statement contained the following. [passage omitted]

The Committee concentrated on the sufferings of Yemeni expatriates and condemned the harassment and expulsion they are being subjected to by the Saudi Arabian authorities. It praised the measures taken by the Presidential Council and the government to facilitate the arrival of the returnees and provide them with the basics for resettling in the homeland.

The Committee affirmed the need to adopt a development and economic strategy to absorb the expatriates internally and use their potentials and resources in building the homeland, which will provide a good life for them and all other citizens.

The Standing Committee also calls on the government to concentrate its efforts on organizing Yemeni immigration and caring for the expatriates in political, economic, social, educational, and security terms. It asks the government to gather statistics on their numbers and categorize them into skilled, technical, and educational categories, find out their places of residence and work, develop means of communicating with them, and establish programs to raise their level of qualifications technically, educationally, and vocationally so they can gain the various technical, professional, vocational, and scientific expertise that would greatly benefit their homeland. It called on the government to strengthen ties between the embassies of our country and all the Yemeni communities abroad. All this should take place through established laws, regulations, and programs that guarantee national bonds and contacts and provide protection and care to all Yemeni expatriates wherever they may be.

The Standing Committee saluted our country's balanced, firm, and principled stand on the Gulf crisis. It affirmed the soundness of the foreign policy followed by our country and its standpoint to deal with problems and issues within the Arab fold and on pan-Arab grounds.

The Committee condemned foreign military presence on Arab land and waters, which represents a flagrant defiance of all Arab and nationalist feelings, pan-Arab sovereignty, and Arab security. In this regard, the Committee decried the intentional disregard on the part of international organizations and institutions for the dangerous economic damage that has struck our country because of the Gulf crisis.

The Committee stated that peace and security in the region, even of the whole world, depend on the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

Regarding the dangerous developments in the occupied Arab territories, the Standing Committee strongly condemns the bestial Israeli attack and ugly crime committed by the oppressive Zionist enemy troops, whose victims were scores of innocent Palestinian brothers in the courtyard of the holy al-Aqsa Mosque on Monday, 8 October 1990. It expressed its readiness to help confront this aggression and perform its national and pan-Arab duty side by side with the wise political leadership.

The Committee salutes the steadfastness of the stone-throwing children who are valiantly defying the oppressive Zionist enemy's fascist practices. It also calls on the Arab and Islamic nations, their governments, and their political organizations to confront this aggression, perform their Islamic and pan-Arab duty, and provide further material and political support to escalate the intifadah and allow it to achieve the victory we hope for.

It also calls on the conscience of the whole world to exert its utmost efforts to end the tyranny of Israel and its unjust and oppressive troops. It calls on the United Nations to take firm measures to stop all Zionist crimes, put an end to their aggressive practices against the Palestinian Arab people and their land and holy shrines, and to find a quick and just political solution to the Palestinian people's problem so as to strengthen their struggle, guarantee the liberation of the occupied Arab territories from the Israeli entity, and establish the independent Palestinian state on its land under the leadership of the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. In addition, the United Nations should guarantee the right of the Lebanese people to spread their sovereignty over all their territories, and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from its southern part so that peace and stability return to fraternal Lebanon.

The Committee views the new developments in Lebanon with great interest. It supports the legitimate government's steps to guarantee security and stability in Lebanon and put an end to the inflamed situation that has lasted for 15 years.

Regarding the dangerous developments and challenges to our Arab nation, our sovereignty, and security, the Committee noted the importance of restoring Arab solidarity and bridging the divisions that have resulted from recent events. It stressed the need to establish a new Arab order with the necessary effectiveness and dynamism to bring stability and security to Arab lands.

The Committee believes the developments in the international arena are positive changes that will serve peace and stability in the world in the long run. In this regard, the Committee blessed German reunification and the convergence of all forces toward peaceful coexistence. It believes that the international community must end the contradiction between detente in the world and the escalation and tension accompanying the arrival of foreign troops in the Peninsula and Gulf. It should realize the importance of withdrawing its destructive troops and weapons from the region and finding the appropriate and just solutions to solve the problems of the region.

As the Standing Committee concludes the meetings of its session, it notes that internal changes in our national arena constitute a firm basis for a positive beginning for the future. It also reaffirms the responsible role played by the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and other political parties and organizations in bolstering awareness of democracy and struggle in building the new homeland under our dear unity.

While the Standing Committee follows economic, social, and educational developments, it senses our people's creative abilities in making a prosperous life on their good and blessed land.

The Standing Committee, in conclusion, calls for increased efforts to pursue national principles and goals and comprehensive development plans, whose objective is to develop the individual and the homeland in the Yemen, and to concentrate on developing and educating Yemenis, especially in the remote and deprived areas. This would achieve justice in distribution and priorities, and provide public facilities to spread development, growth, prosperity, and happiness to all our Yemeni people wherever they may be. [passage omitted]

'Hundreds' Demonstrate Against Price Hikes

AB2510222990 Paris AFP in English 1746 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Sanaa, Oct 25 (AFP)—Hundreds of people have staged demonstrations here in recent days to protest price hikes, notably for petroleum products. Students Wednesday gathered in front of the Yemeni Parliament and the seat of the government to deliver petititons, after demonstrations October 19 and 21. The Yemeni Government decided last week to double the price of petroleum products in response to higher world oil rates.

Officials here said price hikes, which have also affected certain food products, were necessary because of an interruption in oil deliveries from Iraq and Kuwait to a refinery at the port of Aden. Prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait August 2, the refinery treated 70,000 barrels of oil a day from Iraq and Kuwait.

Primakov Said To Reject Saddam's Oil Bribe

PM2610150190 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 21 Oct 90 p 1

[Khalid al-Matrafi report: "Moscow Rejects Iraqi Bribe"]

[Text] AL-MADINAH has learned from informed sources that Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn offered Yevgeniy Primakov, envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, a bribe in the form of two years' free supply of oil in return for Soviet opposition to any international military resolution against Iraq.

The informed sources say that the Soviet envoy firmly rejected the Iraqi bribe offer and reproached Saddam Husayn for insulting a superpower, emphasizing that the Soviet Union was adhering to the unanimous international call for immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

The sources add that, having upset the Soviet envoy, Saddam Husayn tried to soften the atmosphere by expressing willingness to withdraw from Kuwait provided Iraq is allowed to keep the Bubiyan and Warbah islands and al-Rumaylah oilfield, but Primakov rejected all Saddam's offers and insisted that Iraq should accept all UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, AL-MADINAH has learned from reliable sources that there are sharp divisions and differences within the leadership of the ruling Ba'th Party in Iraq. These differences are said to have erupted after a recent leadership meeting. The difficult living conditions resulting from the international blockade, the sources said, were the cause of the Ba'th Party leadership differences.

They add that many Iraqi politicians are now grumbling about the deteriorating living conditions, especially with the disappearance of rice from the market.

Iraqi official Sa'di Mahdi Salih was the target of an assassination attempt last week. He was shot as he was returning home at 0400 in the morning. He was wounded in the leg and one of his aides was killed.

More arms have been distributed to the Ba'th Party leaders. So far, 1,600 pistols have been issued to them as public anger mounts.

Saddam Visits Governorate, Kurdish Families

JN2510194590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1838 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has visited al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. His excellency acquainted himself with the affairs of the citizenry by calling on a number of households and inquiring about their lives, listening to their grievances, and instructing that these be addressed to their satisfaction.

In a chat with one of the families, his excellency said the stability enjoyed by our Kurdish section of the population has produced affluence and progress and afforded them equal opportunities.

The families his excellency visited noted that they are leading peaceful, stable, and prosperous lives, thanks to his constant care and efforts to secure the requirements of comfortable living for the the autonomous region's populace.

His excellency the president performed the afternoon prayers in the home of one of the families. He prayed to God to preserve Iraq, its people, and the Arab nation; to bolster its capacity to stand fast and defeat the enemies; to trace the aggression back to its authors and grant success to what is right; and to give us succor.

His excellency walked about the city streets thronged by thousands of our Kurdish population, who braved a downpour to greet him and express sentiments of love and loyalty. They reconfirmed a pledge to remain committed to the triumphant march, emphasizing their preparedness to sacrifice in the cause of great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation, and to stand firm against all forces of evil and aggression.

Four German Detainees Released 26 Oct

LD2610100290 Hamburg DPA in German 0941 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cologne (DPA)—Four employees of the Strabag construction firm who were detained in Iraq are on their way back to the Federal Republic. As was learned in Cologne, the men—aged between 33 and 56—should arrive on Friday afternoon at Frankfurt airport from Jordan with Chairman of the Board Peter Jungen. The Strabag chief was able in personal talks to move the Iraqi Government to release them. Thirty-four other Strabag employees, who built an airport in Iraq, are still being detained.

Ambassador to France Cited on Release of Citizens

LD2610001890 Baghdad International Service in English 2100 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Iraq's ambassador to France said on Wednesday he was holding talks with senior French Foreign Ministry officials to speed the return of French guests in Iraq. I had talks last night at the Quai d'Orsay Foreign Ministry and we have agreed that we will talk this morning about the [word indistinct] arrangements, how best the French nationals would come home as quickly as possible, Iraqi Ambassador 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Hashimi was quoted by REUTER as saying.

Al-Hashimi said that 327 people could leave Baghdad as early as Wednesday, depending on the progress of his talks with the French Foreign Ministry's Middle East specialist Patrick Leclercq. Iraq's parliament voted on Tuesday to let all the French guests in Iraq leave if they wished to. Al-Hashimi said that decision to free the

French citizens was not a result of negotiations between Paris and Baghdad. It was a decision of the Iraqi Government and that of President Saddam Husayn. I confirm that there was not negotiations between Iraq and France concerning their release, Al-Hashimi told an interviewer.

Al-Hashimi said the French could leave today if arrangements could be made, though it may take some time. He said Baghdad fully expected that France would send officials to Iraq to organize the departure of the French. The envoy said Iraq had received nothing in return for the decision which he described as a unilateral gesture to the French Government and the French people.

Al-Hashimi said French politician Jean-Marie Le Pen, who said he was ready to go to Baghdad to take home the French, had not been issued an Iraqi visa. He, Le Pen, does not have a visa and he is not coming to Iraq now, the ambassador said. Le Pen has waged a lone campaign against the presence of the United States-led Western forces in the Gulf and for negotiations to end the Gulf crisis.

Chemical Weapons Said Taken to 'Secret' Places

NC2510193990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party has disclosed that Iraq has transferred vital equipment from arms factories as well as chemical weapons to secret locations for security reasons.

The party said that the sensitive Iraqi installations have been evacuated.

UN Resolutions 'Clear Appeasement' of Israel

JN2610120190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that the UN Security Council has become a toy at the hands of the United States, which moves it whichever way it wishes and dictates to it whatever resolutions it desires.

In an editorial today entitled "A New Appeasement for the Zionists," the newspaper says: Anyone who wants to be certain about this fact will only have to follow the new resolution appeasing the Zionist entity that was passed by the UN Security Council yesterday, Thursday, under the number 673. The resolution states that it "regrets the Israeli Government's refusal to receive the secretary general's mission to the region and urges the Israeli Government to reconsider its decision."

It adds: UN Security Council Resolutions 672 and 673 represent very mild formulas against the Zionist entity, whose gangs committed one of the ugliest crimes against the Palestinian people, while the Security Council, pushed by the United States, passed eight consecutive resolutions against Iraq because of the 2 August events, by which it imposed economic embargo, air and sea blockade, and other inhumane measures, which have gone so far as to bar medicines and food from reaching the Iraqi people.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says this clear appeasement of the racist Zionist entity would not have happened if U.S. policy did not control the UN Security Council. Washington could have used the veto as it did in the past on all resolutions condemning the Zionist expansionist policies. But it felt embarrassed with respect to its Arab friends and allies, who cooperated with it to oppose Iraq, paved the way for the occupation of the lands of Najd and Hejaz, and gave it a false cover—"Arab legitimacy"—through Husni and the betrayer of the two holy mosques.

The paper says: Washington's "tactical" acceptance of such a resolution is only one of the means to pull the carpet from under the Arab's feet. Therefore, we see it working through its relations with the Zionist entity to appease it. The message sent by Bush to the Zionist prime minister, Shamir, before the UN Security Council resolution was issued, was an attempt to spare Bush the blame and at appeasement. In that message, Bush did not try to change the Zionists' viewpoint but to redirect attention to Iraq, according to the U.S. State Department spokesman's comments on the message.

The paper stresses that the new UN Security Council decision clearly proves that the Council is not serious about practical measures against the Zionists, and, thus, gives them the opportunity to commit further aggressive acts. Despite the seriousness of certain members and their inclination to do justice, the U.S. influence on the resolutions will stop that Council, now and in the future, from applying any stringent measures like those taken against Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by saying: The Arabs and all faithful people in the world must take note of this fact. They must realize that confronting the hostile U.S. onslaught is the only way to achieve justice and to regain the Arabs' and Muslim's usurped rights. We will triumph.

U.S. Blamed for 'Weak' UN Resolution on Israel

JN2610133890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH warns against the continuation of the U.S. game in the UN Security Council [UNSC] concerning the Zionist massacre against our Palestinian Arab people in al-Aqsa Mosque.

Commenting editorially, the paper says this game has turned into a real piece of theater reflecting the Security Council's dilemma after submitting to U.S. decision-making and pressure. The Security Council, the paper adds, has lost its credibility and has become no more than a stage for political maneuvering and approving plans serving U.S. policy. [passage omitted]

AL-QADISIYAH continues: If the Security Council managed after much labor yesterday to produce a resolution regretting Israel's refusal to receive a UN mission to investigate al-Aqsa massacre, this "regret," which barely does justice to the ugly crime that led to scores of Palestinian victims, was not accepted by the Zionist entity thanks to the encouragement of U.S. imperialism. Israel has known right from the beginning that the United States will do all it can to soften the position inside the Security Council and produce a weak resolution that will have no effect whatsoever on the Zionist plan to continue to terrorize, murder, and expel our Palestinian people from their land.

The paper says that the theatrics taking place in the Security Council with the support of the United States confirms the double-standard that has now become the hallmark of the Council in its handling of international issues and crises. It also reemphasizes the United States' hostility toward the Arab nation and disrespect for the nation's rights and the blood of its people, especially the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

AL-QADISIYAH affirms: The United States and its West European satellites are mistaken; in fact, they are making a mistake against themselves and the world if they imagine, while playing this mean game against Iraq and the Arab nation, that they will remain safe from Arab reaction. In fact, we would like to assure Bush that the circle is narrowing around the racist West and revealing all its cards. This is why these enemies and all evil forces have been compelled to come out of their hideouts and plot openly and unashamedly against Iraq and the Arab people. What is taking place now in the Security Council is only an indication of the real crisis facing the world and a turning point for the birth of a new world at the turn of the new century, a world in which the United States will not have a humanitarian role. In fact, it will be a mere insult and a shameful stigma in the annals of human history.

Education Minister Denounces Resolution on Kuwait

JN2510175090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—The National Iraqi Committee for Education, Culture, and Science has condemned the resolution issued by the UNESCO Executive Board yesterday in which it accused Iraq of destroying the educational, cultural, and scientific institutions in the Governorate of Kuwait and of trying to obliterate its cultural identity. In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din, education minister and chairman of the committee, said that the resolution contradicts the objectives of UNESCO, which seeks to develop education, culture, and science in the world apart from international political issues.

The Iraqi education minister added that those who have adopted the resolution are unaware that the Arab nation is one family which is linked by one cultural identity, and the assumption that one Arab state or part of it has a special cultural identity is false and is not based on the social facts of the Arab homeland.

The chairman of the National Iraqi Committee noted that Iraq's permanent representative at UNESCO reviewed the clear facts of the nature of the progress of the educational and cultural process in the Governorate of Kuwait. However, UNESCO—as a result of the pressures imposed on it by some major powers—issued this unjust resolution.

He noted that the United States worked to keep UNESCO away from being involved in the international affairs, particularly with regard to the issues of the Palestinian Arab people and the Zionist occupation of the Arab territory. He also noted that the United States and Britain withdrew from UNESCO when it adopted decisions in harmony with the UN resolutions in their condemnation of the Zionist entity and its occupation of the Arab territory.

The chairman of the National Iraqi Committee for Education, Culture, and Science affirmed that the UNESCO resolution is an American one, because the United States succeeded in affecting the organization and in making it follow a double-standard method in dealing with international events. He said that UNESCO refrained from dealing with many world problems such as the Vietnam war, the Cypriot problem, the ongoing war in Afghanistan, the Irish problem, the Falkland war, the Lebanese war, and the tragedies of the Palestinian people. And the only thing this organization gave the Palestinian people was its adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution No. 3,379 in the wake of which the United States and Britain withdrew from UNESCO.

The Iraqi minister added that the UNESCO resolution aims at satisfying the United States, Britain, and its agents in the Arab region in order to convince these two countries to return to UNESCO.

Concluding, 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din affirmed that this resolution damages international relations and prevents peaceful efforts and diplomatic initiatives within the framework of the United Nations from playing an effective role in achieving a just peace in the world and in keeping the world away from the specter of war.

Hammadi on Kuwaiti Currency, Assets Abroad

JN2510184090 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 17 Oct 90 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi by 'Adil Sa'd on 8 October in Baghdad]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Sa'd] The al-Sabah family's assets and funds have been expropriated, and the Kuwait dinar scrapped and replaced by the Iraqi dinar. What are the conclusions to be drawn from these measures?

[Hammadi] All legal and administrative procedures have now been completed. You must be aware of the decision

to replace the Kuwait dinar with the Iraqi dinar. The Kuwait dinar is now an illegal, banned currency, now that the Iraqi dinar has taken its place. We are now one state with a single currency. It is inconceivable that there be more than one currency in any nation.

As for the funds of the former royal family, I have nothing to add. It was a self-serving clan that abused power to build up its fortune, squander it, and otherwise use it for illegal purposes. These funds rightly belong to the people, which is what has already taken place according to the due process. The al-Sabah family, of course, has deposits in foreign countries. These countries do not recognize Iraq's claims to these funds. Sooner or later, they will reconsider and give the funds back to Iraq.

There are official, legal Iraqi memos staking Iraq's claim to these funds. We will bring action against the nations that refuse to recognize Iraq's claims. It is natural that Iraq pursue such action in the interest of its own people.

[Sa'd] What is the state of the banking system in Kuwait?

[Hammadi] Banking is being carried out normally by commerical banks in Kuwait, and all the banks are now operating. The banking system is accessible to all those who are in Kuwait.

During the old regime, the assets and deposits were reinvested overseas in bonds, real estate, and shares, mostly in European nations. They are now frozen. When the banks reopened, the assets of the commerical banks in the Governorate of Kuwait did not exceed 20 million Kuwait dinars, when the public had upwards of 2 billion Kuwaiti dinars in deposits. For normal daily transactions, every citizen in Kuwait was allowed to withdraw 30 Kuwaiti dinars per day from their personal accounts—that is, 900 dinars per month—which is no small amount. To date, we have paid out in excess of the 20 million dinars that had been there in cash.

Public deposits in the commercial banks have been frozen overseas. We are offering the depositors more services than we are legally bound to. Daily withdrawals are on the order of five million Kuwaiti dinars.

While the nations that have frozen Iraq's deposits abroad set out to harm Iraq, in actual fact they have hurt the residents of the Governorate of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

'Aziz on U.S., British Reaction to Saudi Remarks

JN2610104090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that the main aim of the U.S. and British occupation of the land of the Arabian Peninsula is not to defend international law and order, as claimed by the governments of Washington and London, but to impose direct and complete military control over the oil wells.

This came in a statement by Tariq 'Aziz to the IRAQI NEWS AGNECY on the position of both the United States and Britain toward the recent statements by [Saudi Defense Minister] Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

He said: The hysterical statements made by President George Bush in response to statements attributed to a Saudi Government official, Sultan; the U.S. Secretary of State's meeting with the Saudi ambassador in Washington; and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's contact with her ambassador in Saudi Arabia following these statements confirm the fact that we have pointed out since the beginning of the U.S.-British occupation of the land of the Arabian Peninsula; namely, that the main aim of this occupation is not to defend international law and order, as claimed by the governments of Washington and London, but to impose a direct and complete military control over the oil wells, just as was anticipated by President Saddam Husayn in his speech at the Amman [Arab Cooperation Council] summit on 25 February 1990.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added: These statements also confirm that, regardless of our viewpoint on the Saudi official's statements, the governments of Washington and London act immediately to suppress any attempt to open dialogue among the Arab states to resolve the issues in the region within an Arab framework. The statements also confirm that Washington and London want to take full control of the political policy, just as they did with the military policy by setting up this military concentration, which effectively means an occupation of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf.

The foreign minister pointed out that substantial facts must be deduced from those statements and from the U.S. and British stands as a whole. First, that those who invited the foreign troops under the pretext of defending them against an alleged Iraqi threat, fabricated by the U.S. intelligence service, have—just as we expected and warned them against—lost much of their political will in dealing with the situation.

The second fact to be deduced by other foreign countries that took part in the military and political campaign against Iraq is that the United States and Britain are the ones in control of the situation, and that the participation of those states serves only the U.S.-British colonial scheme against the Arab nation. Those states, therefore, must reconsider the hasty decisions they made to participate in the U.S. and British aggressive military and political campaign against Iraq.

Paper Says 'Surprises' Await 'Evildoers'

JN2410122390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the evildoers will face several facts and surprises that they will not be able to endure if they carry out an aggression against Iraq.

In its editorial today, the paper says that among these surprises are that they will not be able to maintain control over the course of the war, that the decision to end the war will not be in their hands, that all their calculations and the information they have received from experts and advisers were wrong, deluding, and destructive, and that their wagering on the regimes of Fahd and Husni and their likes of the agents and traitors was a completely losing one.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Before various things they will face an experienced fighting people who are capable of defending themselves, their dignity and national and pan-Arab security. In fact, these people are determined to liberate all mankind from American arrogance and the logic of brute force that Bush wants to impose on humanity in the last decade of the 20th century.

The paper calls on the U.S. officials to make as many coffins, bags, and stretchers as they can because they will be in dire need of them once the fighting starts. It says that what is awaiting their concentrations and forces is far worse than anything they experienced in Vietnam. If they imagine that their arrogant statements can intimidate Iraq and force it to retreat and relinquish its historical achievement that is represented by Kuwait's eternal return to Iraq, then they are deluded, and in fact, they are dreaming of the impossible, because it is not the Iraqis that can be intimidated by the clatter of arms or huge concentrations and fleets. The Iraqis do not fear threats or intimidation.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Just as the United States was defeated in the aggressive wars it carried out against peoples, and just as it failed to achieve any of its strategic objectives in these wars, it will inevitably be defeated in its treacherous aggression against our country. In fact, we are fully confident that a historic crushing defeat will be inflicted on America in the crucial battle, and that it will lose all its pillars and tools in the region. Nothing will be left of the oil whose wells it has come to occupy; Israel, which it came to protect, will cease to be as it is now; and not one of the traitor rulers, who are now trembling with fear and intimidation, will be excluded from annihilation and destruction. Moreover, the United States will no longer be able to tamper with the peoples' resources and destinies the way it likes.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH stresses: Yes, the crucial battle will change the region's map. In this battle, thrones will fall, heads will be chopped off, those who capitalize on death and destruction will be defeated, the believers will triumph, Iraq and the Arab nation will triumph, and the banners of right, benevolence, unity, liberation, and peace will fly high.

Kurds March to British, U.S. Embassies

JN2310103890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] The Kurdistan Revolutionary Party [al-hizb al-thawri al-kurdistani] has condemned the U.S.-Zionist-Western invasion of the sacred Arab lands and the Arabian Gulf. In a protest march it organized today to the British and U.S. embassies in Baghdad, the party condemned the inhuman measures taken by the colonial states against Iraq, the aggressive intervention in the affairs of the regional states, and the invasion of the Muslim sacred lands in cooperation with the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Fahd, and the agent Husni.

The protesters handed memos of protest to the British Embassy in Baghdad and to the U.S. charge d'affairs. The memos denounce the aggressive acts against Iraq and the Arab nation, and demand a halt to the intervention in the regional states' affairs and an immediate departure of the invasion troops.

Opposition Comments on Defeat of Saddam Regime

PM2410085790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Oct 90 p 7

[Unattributed interview with Fakhri Karim, "a prominent Iraqi Opposition leader," in London; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] I think you would agree with me that the dissipation of the Iraqi opposition forces' efforts inside and outside Iraq requires a suitable joint action formula in order to topple the Saddam Husayn regime and replace it with a democratic regime.

[Karim] In fact it is erroneous for the Arab and world media to talk about an Iraqi opposition abroad and another inside. There is actually one opposition. It is based inside but has its extensions abroad.

That error is attributable to the extensive presence of the opposition representatives and leaders abroad. The reason for the opposition's heavy presence abroad is the nature of the dictatorial regime in Iraq. That regime has launched its terror against all the Iraqi people's forces, using, without any exaggeration, all bloody methods, even those Hitler never thought of. That terror has resulted in tens of thousands of the Iraqi people's sons leaving the country. [passage omitted]

The dispersal has continued, even until now, despite the fact that all parties emphasize the need to overcome that negative situation and work to secure a suitable joint action formula for the stage ahead.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Have the Iraqi opposition forces been able to reach an agreement to overcome their disputes and discuss means of joint action to achieve their common objectives?

[Karim] During the present crisis the possibilities of realizing that joint framework have been strengthened. Indications of that have started to emerge, especially since the opposition representatives' arrival at a unified position in condemning the occupation of Kuwait and its annexation by force to Iraq. They also demanded the Iraqi forces' unconditional withdrawal, holding the regime responsible for the foreign forces' extensive presence in the Gulf region. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The Kurds are the only armed opposition confronting the Saddam Husayn regime and they, for geographical reasons, cannot be an alternative to that regime. Is there any military coordination among the opposition forces inside Iraq?

[Karim] The Kurdish opposition forces are based principally in the Kurdistan region. There are also democratic forces. Obviously armed action in that region has never decided or been able to change the regime in Baghdad, and that is still the case today. Nor has that movement's objective been to play such a role. The objective is to weaken the regime and participate with all the opposition forces in securing the conditions and the capabilities needed to topple the regime with a view to replacing it with a democratic system.

Obviously the Kurdish movement's struggle aims at realizing its national objectives within the framework of the opposition movement's common objectives, principally the establishment of a democratic system that would enable the Kurdish people to realize true autonomy within the framework of a united Iraqi state. [passage omitted]

PLO Delegation Arrives on Official Visit

DFLP Official Comments

JN2510202490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and head of the PLO Information Department, has affirmed that the best solution to the Gulf crisis is represented by the U.S. response to the initiative declared by leader President Saddam Husayn on 12 August—the initiative that was welcomed by Arab and international quarters. He added that the increasing Arab and world understanding of Iraq's peaceful stands, and the call to resolve all suspended problems in the Arab region as an indivisible whole—in accordance with the leader president's initiative—are in harmony with the desire of the entire world community to save the region from the dangers of the destructive war with which the United States and its allies are threatening Iraq and the Arab nation. In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the U.S. failure to respond to the initiative of leader President Saddam Husayn and Iraq's peaceful stands only reflects the intransigent and frenzied stands of the U.S. Administration, which has revealed its double-standard positions and policies in solving the problems and crises in the Arab region under the guise of its claims on international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh warned the Zionist entity that its use of armed force against the sons of the Palestinian Arab people and the arming of the settlers in the Arab territory will certainly lead to a comprehensive and open war, the consequences of which will be shouldered by the Zionist entity because of its terrorist policies against the sons of the Palestinian Arab people.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh called on the international community and the Security Council to adopt the necessary measures to protect the sons of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territory from the inhuman and repressive practices carried out daily by the Zionist occupation authorities against them.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh arrived in Baghdad today heading a delegation on an official visit of several days.

Meets With Ramadan

JN2610083990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2110 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received today Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and member of the PLO Executive Committee, and his delegation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the Arab masses have declared their support for Iraq because, for the first time in the history of the Arabs, they saw usurped areas restored to their motherland. He said that the return of the Kuwait district to Iraq restores the situation to health and buries the artificial division of Iraq.

He explained that this is the age of the masses and peoples, and that the Arab masses are conscious of the capitulationist policies and subservience of some Arab rules—the servants, slaves, and agents of America.

He said the United States threatens us with a war while its Zionist allies and slaves—the betrayer of the two holy mosques and Husni—are urging it to expedite it. He said this war will be a defeat for the United States and the beginning of the end of its allies and slaves.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Palestinian intifadah has increased its struggle and defiance of the Zionist occupiers despite their ugly crimes. He said that the portraits of President Saddam Husayn that are being raised in the occupied Palestinian territories are the first portraits of an Arab leader to be raised by the Palestinians. This because they have found in the leadership of President Saddam Husayn hope and profound confidence in the liberation of the usurped land and the forced departure of the occupiers so that a full peace can be established in the region without divisions and colonialism.

Oil Minister, Soviet Official Discuss Oil Projects

JN2510191890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—Oil Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi this morning met with Nikolay Luv,

deputy minister of the Soviet Petroleum Industry Ministry, and the accompanying delegation. They discussed ways to develop the work in the oil projects implemented by Soviet establishments in Iraq.

The meeting was attended by the under secretary of the Oil Ministry and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Swedish Muslim Delegation Arrives in Baghdad

JN2510181490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—The delegation of Swedish Muslims led by Haytham Rahmah, chairman of the Muslim Students Federation in the Scandinavian countries and the imam of the Islamic League in Sweden, arrived in Baghdad at noon today on a visit of several days to Iraq. In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Haytham Rahmah said that the objective of the delegation's visit to Iraq is to declare the support and solidarity of all Muslims in Sweden with the people of Iraq in their confrontation of the brutal imperialist and Zionist campaign to which they are being exposed until a splendid victory is achieved, God willing. He also affirmed that all Muslims denounce the U.S. Atlantic presence in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and strongly condemn the economic blockade imposed on the people and children of Iraq. The Muslims consider this an inhuman act, he said.

The Swedish delegation was received at the airport by a number of officials from the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization.

Swedish Parliamentary Delegation Meets Jasim

JN2510123590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Command's External Relations Office, has received (Everett Stevenson), representative of the Social Democratic Party and head of the Swedish parliamentary delegation currently visiting Iraq. They exchanged views on developments in the Arab region in general and the Arabian Gulf in particular. Mr. Jasim analyzed the hostile U.S. scheme against Iraq and stressed that the Iraqi people, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, are able to fight the enemies in defense of great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation.

(Mr. Stevenson) said his party believes in settling all issues of the region by peaceful means and negotiations without making distinctions between one issue and another. He stressed the importance of international conference to solve all problems of the region, including the Palestine question.

Confers With Salih

JN2510105790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met this evening with a Swedish delegation of peace messengers led by Swedish parliamentarian Everett Stevenson [name as received].

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker reviewed the proportions of the U.S.-Zionist scheme against Iraq and the Arab nation. He said the objective of the presence of U.S. troops in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula is to control oil wells and the world oil market and dominate the world economy.

Salih said that the Iraqis, along with all honorable and well-meaning people all over the world, are capable of confronting the U.S. threats and foiling the evil conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The visiting delegation stressed the need to resolve all Middle East problems through peaceful and diplomatic means and avoid threats and aggression. Furthermore, the delegation pointed out that the current regional situation cannot be discussed in isolation from the issue of the Palestinian people, who are struggling to regain their legitimate rights.

Holds Meeting With Ramadan

JN2610085690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2108 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received a Swedish peace delegation today led by Everett Stevenson [name as received].

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed the forms of British conspiracy against Iraq throughout history and the separation of Kuwait from the map of Iraq. He also reviewed the direct and indirect Zionist-U.S.-British-aggressive practices that have arisen because Iraq, under leader President Saddam Husayn, has said no to the arrogant U.S. policy and seizure of peoples' rights to land and resources.

The first deputy prime minister said that peace efforts should be directed toward a comprehensive peace for the sake of all mankind. He added that the measures adopted by the United States in cooperation with its allies and agents against Iraq are aggressive. He noted that the self-restraint observed by Iraq in not replying to these aggressions, in the form of the land, sea, and air blockade and the violation of all international laws, is a practical expression of Iraq's faith in peace and the need to provide more chances for peace and to spare mankind the disasters of war. Such a war will be universal, not regional, if the United States starts it.

The Swedish peace delegation noted that Swedish public opinion is against war and that international efforts

demanding peace are increasing in the world. The delegation rejected the resolutions aimed at starving the Iraqi people and denying them food and medicines. The delegation also affirmed that it will continue efforts to spare mankind the disasters of a destructive war.

Diet Member Meets National Assembly Speaker

OW2610080290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0716 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 26 KYODO—Antonio Inoki, a former pro wrestler who is now a member of Japan's parliament, met Thursday with Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to plead for the release of his countrymen being held hostage by the Baghdad government, according to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY monitored in Tokyo.

Inoki, who is the lone representative of the Sports and Peace Party in the House of Councillors, has criticized Japan's Government for not doing enough to win the release of Japanese who have been held in Iraq following the invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

The former athlete also visited Baghdad last month in a failed bid to gain their freedom.

The report said Inoki presented a "token quantity of milk to the Iraqi children as a contribution to break the blockade against the people of Iraq."

The speaker thanked Inoki for his "humanitarian gesture" and said it will consider the offering a "sincere effort to strengthen friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries," the agency said.

Inoki is also using his visit to promote a goodwill sports and music festival he hopes to stage in Iraq, it added.

'Aziz Meets Greek PASOK Party Delegation

JN2510115590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Karlos Papoulias and Akis Tsokhatzopoulos, members of the PASOK [Panhellenic Socialist Movement] party in the Greek parliament.

They exchanged views on developments in the Arab region in general and the Arabian Gulf in particular and on a number of issues of mutual concern. The PASOK delegation stressed support for efforts to bring about lasting and comprehensive peace in the entire region and for handling all issues with the same degree of interest. They asserted that their party rejects the U.S. military and aggressive policy.

The two members conveyed an oral message from Andreas Papandreou, former prime minister and leader of the PASOK party, to leader President Saddam Husayn.

Saddam Receives Message From Nigerian President

JN2310155690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Ibrahim Zakari, minister of state at the Nigerian External Affairs Ministry, today.

Zakari conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida. The message deals with the developments of the situation in the region, and Nigeria's desire that the Gulf crisis be settled peacefully. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun and the Nigerian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Bulgaria's Semerdzhiev Departs 25 Oct

JN2510191690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Bulgarian Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev and his delegation left Baghdad this evening following a four-day official visit to Iraq.

He was seen off at the airport by Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, Revolution Command Council member and vice president; 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of agriculture and irrigation; and the Iraqi and Bulgarian ambassadors to both countries.

In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, the Bulgarian vice president expressed great satisfaction with the results of his visit to Iraq. He said he conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev on bilateral relations and the developments of the situation in the region.

He expressed high appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's initiative of allowing the Bulgarian nationals to choose between leaving Iraq or staying in it. He affirmed that this move will bolster the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Bulgaria.

He affirmed that his country supports an Arab solution of the Gulf crisis through peaceful means without resorting to the use of military force.

Meanwhile, a final statement has been issued on the conclusion of the visit of Bulgarian Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev and his delegation to Iraq. Following is the text of the press statement:

From 22 to 25 October 1990, Bulgarian Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev visited Iraq as a special envoy to President Zhelyu Zhelev and the government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria at the head of a state official delegation. The delegation includes representatives of the basic political forces represented in the Grand National Assembly. These are the Bulgarian Socialist Party, the Democratic Forces Union, the Popular Union of Bulgarian Peasants, and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms. During the visit of the official

delegation to Iraq, it was received by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to whose excellency a written message was conveyed from Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev. The vice president had other meetings with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih. Taking part in the later meeting were representatives of the basic political forces represented at the Bulgarian National Assembly.

The Iraqi side under Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, Revolution Command Council member and Iraqi vice president, and the Bulgarian side under Bulgarian Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev, as well as the accompanying delegations held official talks which covered many issues. The Iraqi side comprised the minister of housing and construction, the minister of agriculture and irrigation, and other officials. The Bulgarian side comprised members of the official delegation.

The Iraqi and Bulgarian sides discussed bilateral relations and means to promote them in the future in all fields. The two sides stressed the importance of the continuation of cooperation between the two countries. In appreciation for these relations, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn made the initiative of allowing the Bulgarian nationals working in Iraq who finished their job contracts or those whose continued stay is not needed for the completion of projects to travel if they so wish.

The two sides exchanged views about the situation in both Arab and international arenas and the changes witnessed by the Arab region and the East European states. The two sides affirmed the need to settle all problems in the Arab region through peaceful means and the adoption of dialogue and negotiations as a basis for this settlement. They denounced any resort to war, as it will constitute a disaster for humanity and the world. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the talks and affirmed their readiness to resolve in the future all issues related to bilateral relations through a spirit of understanding and the implementation of the exigencies of international law.

Saddam Congratulates Waldheim on National Day

JN2610104590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim on the occasion of his country's national day.

The cable states: On the occasion of Austria's national day, we are pleased to send to your excellency our congratulations, wishing you good health and happiness; the friendly Austrian people further progress and prosperity; and the ties of friendship between our two countries further improvement and success.

Substitutes for Imported Baby Food Developed

JN2310193490 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 90 p 7

[Excerpt] As part of the scientific efforts to find food alternatives, especially for children, a professor at al-Basrah University, Dr. 'Amir Muhammad 'Ali al-Amiri, lecturer at the School of Agriculture's Department of Food Technology, who specializes in manufacturing baby foods, has succeeded in manufacturing alternative foods for children. The researcher told AL-JUMHURIYAH about how he reached the results he came up with.

We have succeeded in manufacturing children's food from cereals and legumes as an alternative for Cerelac, a baby food which was imported from abroad and cost huge amounts. [passage omitted]

Dairy Enterprise Starts Marketing Milk

JN2310185690 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 21 Oct 90 p 6

[Text] The State Enterprise for Dairy Products has begun producing milk for children over one year old. It will be marketed shortly through the central markets and cooperative societies. Work will soon commence to produce milk for other age groups.

AL-QADISIYAH has learned that all government employees can now get their dairy product needs through the central markets and the cooperative societies. The State Enterprise for Dairy Products has started marketing large amounts of its products in the central markets. Agents are the only ones permitted to sell to other citizens.

Levi Warns Syria To Show 'Prudence' in Lebanon

TA2510180090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi called on Syria to act with responsibility and with extreme prudence in Lebanon. Israel will not sit by idly if the Syrians deviate from certain rules of conduct and endanger Israel's security, he warned. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reported that the foreign minister was speaking at a meeting with the diplomatic corps stationed in Israel.

Ministry Denies Knowledge of Iraqi Atomic Bomb

TA2510163390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The French weekly LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR reports that Defense Minister Moshe Arens and the Israeli intelligence services are convinced that Iraq possesses uranium in sufficient quantities to produce at least one atomic bomb. The weekly asserted that two reports that reaching Jerusalem on this matter had aroused a great deal of concern. One report noted that the Iraqis are no longer permitting anyone to leave any of its three nuclear centers, and the other report pointed out that for the first time in 10 years, Iraq has refused to allow any inspection of its nuclear installations by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In Israel, the defense minister's media adviser stated that Israel has no such information; however, it is common knowledge that ever since Israel destroyed the atomic reactor in Bagdhad, Iraq has been trying to achieve nuclear capability with the aid of Western companies and scientists. Countries throughout the world must take action to prevent the Iraqi leader from procuring atomic weapons.

Panel Issues Findings on Temple Mount Violence

Zamir Commission Reports

TA2610105390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1030 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Report on the Zamir commission findings by political correspondent Arye Golan at the Prime Minister's Office and Shalom Qital in the studio]

[Text] [Golan] The commission members have just entered the Prime Minister's Office. The report's main conclusions are as follows: The Zamir commission has not drawn any personal recommendations regarding the upper police echelons. As far as we know, the commission report states that it lacks the authority to make such recommendations. We have learned that the commission levels criticism at the police command, with the main criticism directed at Southern District Commander Rahamim Comfort and Jerusalem District Commander Arye Bibi.

The commission levels criticism at the police deployment, which was routine and erroneous, and at the performance of the above-mentioned commanders.

Regarding Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner, the report states that he erred in evaluating the information the police and the security services had received.

As already mentioned, the criticism focuses on inadequate police preparation.

[Qital] In other words, although there are no personal conclusions because the commission lacks the authority, the main criticism is directed at Commander Comfort and Deputy Commander Bibi.

[Golan] True. With regard to the police commissioner, it was also said that he erred in evaluating the data obtained by the police. This was said about Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner.

Regarding the Shin Bet, the report states that it failed to provide specific and precise information on what was liable to happen.

As for the sequence of events, the Zamir commission report says that there was indeed provocation by Arabs on the Temple Mount and that the lives of policemen and Jewish worshippers were indeed seriously endangered on the Temple Mount.

Says No Firing at Fleeing Muslims

TA2610112190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Zamir commission report says that the police did not shoot Muslim rioters in the back, as claimed by Palestinians, and this can be taken to mean that police did not shoot at fleeing Muslims. [passage omitted]

Justifies Use of Live Fire

TA2610124990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The Zamir commission has stated that the Temple Mount events required the presence of the police commanders for the Southern and Jerusalem Districts. When the events escalated, the police commissioner should have been alerted as well. A correct evaluation of the events would have allowed preventive deployment.

Referring to the question of responsibility, the commission stated that the police commissioner, the Southern District commander, and the Jerusalem District commander erred in evaluating the information concerning the expected developments and, as a result, failed to prepare accordingly. No command post was set up on the Mount and no deterring power was amassed. The lives of policemen and of thousands of worshippers on the Temple Mount were thereby endangered. Therefore, the commission justifies the use of live gunfire.

The police command displayed no special sensitivity to the problems of the Temple Mount. The Southern District and Jerusalem District commanders focused on one factor only: the design of the Temple Mount Faithful to lay a cornerstone to the Third Temple. When this event was called off, they resorted to routine measures. They did not consider the accumulated impact of the intifadah, the atmosphere created by terrorist elements, and the provocative calls issued by the Temple Mount muezzin.

The police did not prepare any feasible scenarios and, therefore, they did not train for any.

With regard to the Shin Bet, the commission said that it has found no proof to substantiate the Shin Bet's testimony that it submitted a clear and distinct evaluation to the police prior to the event. Meanwhile, the Shin Bet had made it clear to the police that under the circumstances, an unexpected catalyst would be liable to prompt a flare-up.

In summary, the Zamir commission leveled criticism at the performance of the senior police command in the Temple Mount events and stated that Minister Roni Milo bears ministerial responsibility for the actions of the police.

Police Minister Roni Milo refused to comment on the report's findings, saying only that the report is serious and thorough, adding that he will respond after studying it during the coming Sabbath. He also told our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum that he will draw all appropriate conclusions from the report.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 26 October reports on the Zamir commission findings, adding that "according to police, 20 were killed and 53 wounded in the Temple Mount event."]

Recommends Intelligence Branch

TA2610140090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The Zamir commission has recommended that its report be fully published. At the same time, it has noted that classified material is not included in the report and will not be presented for review to unauthorized persons. Despite the fact that the commission was not a commission of inquiry by law, it coordinated its work with the state attorney, and it acted in accordance with Article 14 of the Commissions of Inquiry Law. It has decided that all the testimony it has collected will not be used as evidence in regular legal proceedings, except for criminal trials.

The commission notes with regret that those who submitted the affidavits included in the report of Betzelem, the Israeli information center for human rights in the occupied territories, did not see fit to be questioned by the commission. The commission also notes that all its appeals to meet the Supreme Muslim Council and the Waqf management and hear their position on the Temple Mount events were turned down.

The commission recommends that in the future, elements that could incite the worshipers on Temple Mount be barred entry, and that a street-based intelligence gathering branch be set up in the Jerusalem District Police to transmit information about gatherings called by unidentified organizers.

The commission also says that some of the mishaps in containing the riots on Temple Mount occurred because the Border Police unit was not in constant contact with the Old City Police, who were in charge of maintaining order in the area of the Western Wall.

Shamir To Study Report

TA2610110090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1035 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the Zamir commission report issued at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Distinguished gentlemen, Reserves General Tzvi Zamir, Professor Ya'aqov Ne'eman, and Mr. Hayim Kubersky. The inquiry commission was appointed in the wake of a grave event on the Temple Mount during the Sukkoth holiday. All of us greatly regret the loss of life that occurred after worshippers at the Wailing Wall were stoned. An immediate need arose to investigate the sequence of events, the sources responsible for them, and the deployment and actions of the security forces. The State of Israel probed itself through an independent investigatory element, which very few countries do, certainly no other such states in our area.

The commission completed its work after investing an enormous effort over some two weeks. We extend all our gratitude from the bottom of our hearts to the members of the commission and their staff for their activities, but first and foremost to the commission members for the report which they have presented. We will study the report with close attention and discuss the conclusions and the recommendations without delay.

Abu-'Ayyash Assails Report

TA2610115990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Some initial reactions from East Jerusalem: Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Arab Journalists Association in the West Bank, says that the findings of the Zamir commission are unreliable because the commission is biased and expresses the Israeli side only. The only commission whose recommendations should have been accepted is the committee proposed by the UN Security Council.

It was the conduct of the Temple Mount Faithful that brought about the Temple Mount events. Had they not created provocation, nothing would have happened, as

nothing had in previous years. These facts point to the urgent need to send an international force to the territories that will put an end to all these events.

Arab leaders in East Jerusalem say that the commission should have been headed by a judge and should have had authority.

[A similar report by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a on Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 26 October adds: "Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus said that the Shamir government is responsible for the Temple Mount incident. It has created a general atmosphere of radicalism, which has resulted in extreme reactions from both camps. The police reaction was not detached from the general air of radicalism created by the government, which refuses to let the vicious circle of extremist activity end." Barne'a adds that "the prevailing opinion in East Jerusalem is that the Israeli Government is responsible for not allowing the peace process and negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians to be launched."]

Further Reportage on Temple Mount Incident

Police Say 18, Not 21, Killed

TA2510184490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Jerusalem police say they have information on 18 Palestinians killed in the Temple Mount riot earlier this month, and not 21 as reported at the time. All this information has been handed over to the special team investigating the incident. [passage omitted]

UN's Aime Summons Ambassador

TA2610054090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Yohanan Bein, was summoned last night by UN Under Secretary Jean-Claude Aime to hear Jerusalem's response to Wednesday's Security Council resolution condemning Israel for refusing to cooperate with the delegation that would look into the events on the Temple Mount. Bein told Aimee that Israel sticks to its refusal.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 26 October carries a report by David Makovsky and Jonathan Schachter on pages 1 and 13, adding that Bein told Aimee "that Israel believes the results of the Zamir Commission will 'convince' Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that there is no need to send a mission to investigate the Temple Mount incident, according to Israeli and UN sources."]

Sharon Calls For Supervision

TA2610075790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon believes that the closure of the territories is an inadequate measure if terrorism is to be combated. He proposes that the intifadah leaders in Jerusalem and the national committee members, who—according to him—are all known to the authorities, be deported.

In an interview this morning, Sharon said that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and Border Police members should be instilled with sufficient self-confidence to fire in order to hit. Their fear of inquiry commissions is, in Sharon's view, greater than their will to act against rioters.

Minister Sharon added that Israel must have control of the Temple Mount. We must not interfere in prayer arrangements, he said, but we must add police stations on the Mount and retain the keys and supervision over those who enter it.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 26 October adds that referring to measures needed to tighten security in Jerusalem, Sharon says: "We have to expand the Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem, particularly in the Old City."

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT Supplement) in Hebrew on 26 October carries an interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ar'iel Sharon by Nahum Barne'a on pages 1 and 21 in which Sharon, outlining his "concrete plan" for improving security, adds that "we must issue the Israeli Arabs a severe warning that if they continue exacerbating the situation, their fate may be—although we would not wish it so—the same as that suffered by their parents in 1948. It cannot be that after a main road in al-Tayyibah is blocked for hours, soldiers will be sent there first to distribute gas masks. We have really lost all self-respect."]

Number of Worshipers Limited

TA2510145490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] A short while ago, the High Court of Justice rejected the appeal by the deputy mayor of Umm al-Fahm, who asked that the police be forbidden to limit the entry of worshipers into the Temple Mount on Friday. The number of worshipers allowed on the Temple Mount tomorrow will thus be set at between 5,000 and 7,000 only. This was announced today by the State Attorney's Office during the High Court of Justice hearing.

In a meeting held by top police officers and the Muslim Waqf, it was decided to revoke the age limit that had been in effect to date, which stipulated that no worshiper under 45 be permitted on the Temple Mount. If quiet prevails, the police might consider allowing many more worshipers to arrive at the Temple Mount next Friday. This was reported by our legal affairs correspondent 'Ido Shargil.

Labor Favors UN Delegation

TA2510150090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Following the second UN Security Council resolution, the Labor Party today expressed concern over the deterioration of relations with the United States, which joined in and supported the second resolution as well. The Labor Party says that even though it opposes the Security Council resolution, a low-level delegation should be accepted to avert a confrontation with the United States. Party Secretary General Mikha Harish again accused the prime minister of what he termed his foolish way of handling relations with the United States.

Arabs Reportedly Plan Unrest

TA2510125190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The police have information that Arab circles plan unrest during Friday prayers on the Temple Mount. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that this was disclosed by the state attorney's representative during the High Court of Justice discussion of an appeal by two Umm al-Fahm residents who are demanding the cancellation of the police order that has banned the entry of worshipers under the age of 45 to Friday prayers since the Temple Mount riots.

During the court session it transpired that the police command this morning held contacts with the Waqf and Jerusalem's mayor and later decided not to restrict the age of worshipers on the Temple Mount tomorrow, but to limit the total number of people on the mount. The court session on the appeal continues.

Parties, Figures in Territories React to Closure

Knesset Parties Show Support

TA2510124390 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Oct 90 p 3

[Report by Yoram Bar, Tali Barzilay-Sonnenfeld, and Yosef Galili]

[Excerpts] Knesset parties from the left and right support the temporary closure of Israel to residents of the territories.

While right-wing parties view the step as an exacerbation of measures against residents of the territories, left-wing parties expressed the hope that this latest measure is a step toward an Israeli dissociation from the territories.

Five Alignment Knesset members [MK's] have submitted a bill for a phased economic severance of the territories from Israel. They propose that residents of the territories not be allowed into Israel without a permit. [passage omitted]

The CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] endorsed the closure of the territories in view of the tragic circumstances. It expressed the view that in the future, the separation may become an inevitable permanent arrangement. The party called on the government to effect a gradual and controlled closure and at the same time making efforts to create new jobs for residents of the territories.

[Shinuy] MK Amnon Rubinstein urged the prime minister and the defense minister not to settle for a temporary closure of the Green Line to residents of the territories, but to formulate a new policy of separating Israel from the territories. Rubinstein's proposal reiterated the phased solution coupled with the creation of alternative employment for the residents proposed by other parties.

Tehiya has also welcomed the sealing of the territories and expressed the hope that this step would be followed by the permanent closure of Israel to residents of the territories. Rejecting the allegation that the step implies a return to the Green Line, Tehiya called on the authorities to replace workers from the territories with new immigrants.

[Writing on page A5 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 25 October, Dan Margalit reports that in a motion on the agenda of the Knesset Internal Affairs Committee, "Alignment MK Gad Ya'aqobi proposed that Israel carry out a permanent unilateral dissociation from the territories. His plan suggests that the Gaza residents be told they would be granted independence as of 1 Apr 1991. In Judaea and Samaria—excluding Jerusalem, Jordan Rift Valley, and Gush 'Etzyon, which are populated by Jews—the plan would not be implemented until 1 October 1991."]

Arab Leaders See 'Positive Step'

TA2510121590 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Oct 90 p 5

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the West Bank Palestinian Journalists Association, sees the Israeli Government's decision to close the territories temporarily as a Palestinian victory and the first confirmation by the Likud government of the existence of a separate Palestinian entity. Abu-'Ayyash, the uncrowned leader of the West Bank refugee camps, averred in a talk with YEDI'OT AHARONOT that, in deciding on the temporary severance, the Likud government reerected the "Green Line."

Abu-'Ayyash believes that the dissociation of the West Bank from Israel is a positive step, if it is accompanied by others that would center on the withdrawal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops from the West Bank and the introduction of a multinational force; the latter would separate the two nations. According to him, if the severance is not immediately followed by appropriate political steps, it can cause severe reactions on the part of the Palestinians, who are already gravely harmed by the closure of the territories.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, who is touring Africa, had issued no reaction to the events in the territories and Israel by last night; he decided to wait for further developments.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 25 October reports: "Residents of the Gaza Strip reacted to the closure with anger, which was not translated into rioting. The anger mainly stems from the inability to work in Israel, which hurts them economically. After being released from detention yesterday, Faysal al-Husayni remarked that the decision to close the territories shows that Israel and the territories can be separated, adding, that this should lead to a political initiative."]

Al-Husayni Views 'New Opportunity'

TA2510201090 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, who was released from jail yesterday, held a news conference in East Jerusalem today. He said that barring laborers from the territories from Israel accelerates the creation of an independent economic network in the territories. Our correspondent Gil Sadan reports:

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni, in English] It is the time now to realize and to convince that there is no way but to give the Palestinian people their right to build themselves, to work for themselves, by themselves. And I believe that even if the Israeli authorities thinking another about this step, it is the first step toward the Palestinian independent. [sentence as heard] I am asking my people to work hard to build a new opportunity for work, to find a new way to work within the borders of the Palestinian state, and to prepare our economy for this independence and this building of a new future in this area.

[Sadan] Al-Husayni and Shaykh Muhammad al-Jamal, who also participated in the news conference, refused to condemn the murders committed by the Palestinian stabbers, sufficing with generalized declarations:

[Al-Husayni, in English] And there is no different for me between the crying of a Palestinian woman who lost her son or the crying of an Israeli woman who lost her son. Life of a human being is life of a human being, and our struggle is to save the human being life, whatever it is, whoever it is. [end recording]

Commentary Notes Dangers

TA2610122290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Oct 90 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Green Line Is Alive and Well"]

[Text] The closure of the territories constitutes an achievement for the terrorist organizations and for anyone who desires an escalation of the intifadah, and it proves to the Jews that the occupation is intolerable and that the Green Line is still very much alive. The Palestinian organizations are pleased with the sanctions imposed on residents of the territories, because the resulting unemployment and economic distress will increase their bitterness and fan the flames of the uprising. The Palestinians in the territories will have less to lose, and this will increase their motivation to carry out daring acts of revenge. One can almost see this scenario unfolding: The next stage will be a discussion on how to separate the Palestinian and Jewish residents of the territories, and the Jewish residents within the Green Line will be prevented from freely entering the territories in order to avoid unnecessary violence.

The extremists on the right wing understand the danger; behind the statements of Refa'el Eytan and his colleagues regarding a hermetic sealing of the territories lies the assumption that this action will cause the Palestinians terrible misery and lead to a mass exodus. They are not content with the deportation of terrorists and their families. This conception has also taken root among the settlers since the outbreak of the intifadah. There is no more talk of peaceful coexistence; they want the neighbors kicked out, because they have suddenly realized that the nationalistic aspirations of the Palestinians cannot be excised through jobs in Israel or through the construction of settlements. The chances that the sanctions imposed on the residents of the territories will have any degree of success is even smaller than the chance that international sanctions alone will force the Iraqi Army to withdraw from Kuwait. What we are talking about here is leaving home, abandoning one's homeland. Why should the Palestinians leave for benighted Jordan or conquered Kuwait of their own volition?

The Likud leadership is well aware of the political contradiction and the security dangers inherent in closing off the territories. Any closure warrants additional forces, both within the Green Line and inside the territories. Therefore, only a temporary closure of the territories is under consideration in order to reduce tensions there. This, however, is similar to a doctor prescribing aspirin to alleviate the suffering of a cancer patient. This disease cannot be treated without major surgery and intensive care. What we are witnessing today is the unavoidable result of the occupation. Every incident leads to a larger incident. It is enough to tour the hospitals, the construction sites, and agricultural tracts to see just how dependent we are on the workers from the territories. I have often been reminded of something I heard from white leaders in South Africa: Learn from our mistakes. Cut yourselves off from them while it is still possible; otherwise, you will be forced to share power with the Palestinians throughout all of Israel, just as we shall be with Mandela.

The political-security contradiction about the Green Line is not the only contradiction the Israeli right wing has found itself facing over the last few months. Two other severe discrepancies have surfaced since Saddam Husayn seized Kuwait. The famous right-wing credo that "Jordan is Palestine," which constituted the foundation

of Ari'el Sharon's political ideology, was exposed in all its shortcomings. If this slogan had caught on, Iraqi soldiers would be positioned on our eastern border today. This is what 'Arafat and George Habash—who are supposed to supplant King Husayn according to that conception—would have done. Some of the Likud's leaders are quietly whispering in the Americans' ears today that they prefer King Husayn's continued rule to Palestinian control of Jordan. We were lucky not to have had to learn this the hard way.

There is another, deeper contradiction, which is not often spoken of. It came into being after the elimination of Kuwait and the increase in the Iraqi nonconventional military threat. It can be exemplified by the difficult choice facing the right-wing camp. What is preferable? An undefeated Saddam Husayn? The Iraqi war machine intact, with its array of chemical, biological, and—in the future—atomic weapons. This would give Israel full justification for holding on to the territories, out of security considerations, as a bulwark against the dangers facing us from the east.

The second possibility is the complete opposite of the first. The danger posed by Saddam Husayn would be eliminated. The Iraqi war machine would be dismantled, along with Iraq's stockpiles of nonconventional weapons, and the security argument for hanging on to all the territories would no longer be viable. After the Iraqi defeat, the pressure will be directed at Israel. It will have to withdraw from most of the territories, while establishing various security arrangements. In return for a territorial compromise, however, Israel will secure a political agreement with the Palestinians and with other Arab countries.

This is not a theoretical question. It can suddenly surface tomorrow, and we will not be able to avoid it. Some of the right-wing leaders would choose the second alternative, but they are frightened to express their thoughts. There are others, however, who prefer to live with the threat posed by Saddam and his nonconventional weapons, just as long as they do not have to withdraw from the territories. Still others repress the dreaded question by saying that we will cross that bridge when we come to it. When the time comes, after the elimination of the Iraqi threat, it is doubtful if Washington and the international community will agree to leave the old Arab-Israeli conflict ticking away like a time bomb and threatening to blow up the entire region.

Netanyahu Sees No U.S.-PLO Rapprochement

TA2610070290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Hayim Zissowitz and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] Do you think Washington will settle for the Zamir commission report? Will it suffice to reduce the tension between the two governments?

[Netanyahu] I very much hope so, although this was a move by the Security Council which the United States has been trying to temper or block—so far without success. I think that as long as the leading members of the Security Council do not position themselves unequivocally against the one-sided condemnations of Israel, this vicious circle will never be closed. On the contrary, I think the condemnations encourage the Arabs to continue rioting on the assumption that the riots will result in more condemnations, more recommendations, more demands. Therefore, I must say that the dispatch of a delegation would not change the situation one iota. On the contrary, instead of putting an end to the situation, it would perpetuate it.

[Golan] Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister, the question is how far we can stretch the already taut rope of our relations with the Washington administration. We have just heard that President Bush is furious with Prime Minister Shamir for again rejecting his letter, his request—some even say his plea—to accept the delegation and end the affair.

[Netanyahu] Look, I would not recommend believing press reports. I think the United States understands that we are in genuine distress, in a dilemma we cannot simply dismiss by giving in. We could, of course, solve our problems by doing so, but we would pay a very steep price later. The reason we have been refusing to accept a delegation is precisely the reason behind the Arab insistence on its dispatch. The Arabs understand very well that the very moment we allow a UN delegation to intervene on the question of security in Jerusalem, we will begin a process of forfeiting our sovereignty over Israel's capital.

At the same time, I can assure you that we have no intention of entering a confrontation with anyone, certainly not with the United States. We hope that, together with the United States, we will find a way to resolve this sensitive situation between our two countries.

[Golan] Nevertheless, despite our continued differences with the administration, the United States went ahead and supported a resolution initiated by the PLO this very week. The question is this: Are we not witnessing another rapprochement between the United States and the PLO—an organization which has been off limits since it declared support for Saddam Husayn after the invasion of Kuwait?

[Netanyahu] Rapprochement? I would not say that. This is a sophisticated maneuver on the part of the Arabs who got the Security Council into a trap. I think the United States now understands perfectly well that this path serves no one's interests, neither Israel's nor the United States'. I have also noticed that, contrary to reports, the

tone of U.S. remarks about us has been more moderate in recent days. I think this, too, reflects the desire I have already indicated to try to solve the problem. A high degree of presence of mind and patience is required here, and there is certainly no need to be swept away by pessimism and a sense of panic, as if a crisis were at hand.

[Zissowitz] I would like to thank you, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and you, political correspondent Arye Golan.

Arens Directs IDF To Fire at Stone Throwers

TA2610095290 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens instructed the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to open fire at stone throwers caught "red-handed" with a stone that could endanger vehicle passengers or pedestrians. The directive was issued less than a month ago and is primarily intended to cover the West Bank. The guidance calls on officers and soldiers to use discretion before opening fire.

Senior military sources reported that the directive does not involve any change in the law or any expansion of existing orders on opening fire, but merely stresses the defense minister's concern about stone throwing. Up to now, soldiers have avoided opening fire on stone throwers even after it became clear that they could endanger lives. Only soldiers who receive special training and who operate under supervision are permitted to open fire at stone throwers.

The Army sources reported that since the directive was issued, the security forces have not caught a single Palestinian "red-handed" with a large stone and no fire has been opened, which shows that maximum discretion has been used despite the permission. The military judicial system has also approved the guidance on the basis of the danger to human life if a large stone is hurled.

Jerusalem Mayor Reviews Tensions, UN Commission

AU2510131790 Vienna WOCHENPRESSE in German 25 Oct 90 pp 20-21

[Interview with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek by Erich Feier; place and date not given; interview headlined "We Do Not Need the West Bank"]

[Text] [Feier] After the killing of three Israelis on Sunday [21 October] the situation in Jerusalem has reached the breaking point. Do you expect further attacks?

[Kollek] The Arabs should not succumb to the illusion that they can make us uncertain through terrorism. But now I expect the Arab representatives to condemn this action in the same unambiguous way as they expect others to do (concerning the fighting on the Temple Mount).

[Feier] Will further security measures be necessary after the attack?

[Kollek] We have to reexamine our security measures constantly. Changes are to be taken into consideration, if necessary, as long as they remain within the law and preserve the principle of the open city of Jerusalem.

[Feier] The Arab who ran amok called himself the "avenger" of the dead on the Temple Mount. Who is responsible for the massacre at the holy sites?

[Kollek] I do not want to anticipate the investigation committee that has been appointed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. I cannot yet form an opinion. But I criticize Prime Minister Shamir and other members of our government because they do not have enough understanding for the feelings of the Arabs.

[Feier] Could you specify your criticism?

[Kollek] Certainly. Recently Shamir visited a yeshiva (Talmud school) on the Mount of Olives, an area where Arabs live. There he solemnly announced that this yeshiva will one day be the center of a big Jewish suburb. What should the Arab think? The whole project is not serious because this suburb cannot be built without driving away the Arab inhabitants, and this is inconceivable. One day after this statement, the unrest on the Temple Mount broke out.

[Feier] Thus, Shamir's statement caused the unrest?

[Kollek] I do not know. But I know that our ministers do not assess the feelings of the Arabs correctly. Take another example: the purchase of a hospice in the Christian quarter of the old city. This was completely unnecessary, nobody needs it. But it again created distrust. I also do not see any reason why Construction Minister Ari'el Sharon had to acquire an official apartment just in the Muslim quarter of the old city. However, I can say already now that at least part of the blame for the unrest can be put on the "Temple Mount Faithful" (pseudoreligious Jewish extremists, who want to erect a new Jewish temple on the site of the Muslims' holy sites).

[Feier] Does this mean that you consider the resolution of the UN Security Council to send an investigation commission to Israel justified?

[Kollek] Not at all. I think the resolution is unfair and unjustified. But now it is there. And it is wrong to refuse to cooperate with the commission. We should talk to the commission despite our reservations. If the commission comes —and this now seems more likely than on the day when the government made its decision—I am willing to receive it in the Town Hall and to talk to its members. But only if they ask me for a talk. I myself will not take

any initiative. This would be the responsibility of the government. But I do not see any use in the government's refusal.

[Feier] You already made statements behind closed doors to the Israeli investigation committee. What did you say there?

[Kollek] I swore to the committee not to publish one single word of my statement before the whole report is published. Therefore, I cannot answer this question.

[Feier] How do you envisage a solution to the problem that arises from the coexistence of Jews and Arabs in one city?

[Kollek] Here one has to distinguish between two things: A permanent solution is a task for generations. We will not live to see this. But there are several possibilities for short-term solutions. We are now developing a system of "administrative centers" instead of the borough system of London (autonomous districts), which I proposed originally. We already have twelve of these centers, and three of them are Arab. These centers are not independent like the boroughs, but they have far-reaching powers of self-administrations. However, above all, one needs tact. One must not heat up the atmosphere, but calm it down. I am aware of the fact that the Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem would prefer to live without us. This they will not get from us. But everything else, yes.

[Feier] Do you support the proposal by Israeli Religion Minister Sciaki to erect a fence above the Wailing Wall so that stones cannot be thrown on praying Jews?

[Kollek] This one of the most stupid ideas I have ever heard. Instead, our ministers should condemn the behavior of the "Temple Mount Faithful." I have not yet heard any unrestrained condemnation.

[Feier] Are there improvements that you would propose for the Temple District?

[Kollek] We need a permanent police unit here, not necessarily a bigger one or a stronger one. You see, some days ago police detained the Mufti of Jerusalem (he is 82 years old and the highest Muslim dignitary in the city). The policemen, who are one day here and the next day there, simply did not know who he was. I also think that the city administration should have greater powers concerning the deployment of police for monitoring the city. But I do not want a city police. For this we would not have the money, either.

[Feier] In the territorial question you are known for your readiness to renounce occupied territories. Would this also apply to Jerusalem's satellites, such as Ma'aleh Adumim?

[Kollek] I cannot state a firm opinion on this now. But I can say one thing: We do not need the West Bank. It is a millstone around our neck. Military experts have also stated that it is not necessary for our defense. In 1967, shortly after the end of the Six Day War, which ended with the conquest of the Sinai, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Golan, David Ben Gurion, the founder of our state, said: Give everything back except Jerusalem. It is a pity that we did not follow his far-sighted advice at that time. I would like to say one thing more: Administering Jerusalem is a time-consuming and grinding affair. I think I could do it better if I need not give interviews to so many foreign reporters.

Stabbings Claimed by Islamic Fundamentalist Group

NC2410143390 Paris AFP in English 1408 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, Oct 24 (AFP)—An Islamic fundamentalist group, Bayt Al-Maqdis, on Wednesday [24 October] claimed responsibility for an assault last Sunday [21 October] in Jerusalem in which three Israeli Jews were stabbed to death.

Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, the leader of the organization, said the attack was carried out by the Khalid al-Islambuli wing, named for the militant who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981.

Israeli police said a 19-year-old Palestinian killed a woman soldier, a florist and a police officer and wounded a fourth Israeli with a bayonet.

Shaykh As'ad in remarks to Agence France-Presse disputed an earlier claim of responsibility from another fundamentalist group, Jihad Kata'ib al-Aqsa, which he said had been expelled from Bayt al-Maqdis.

In Jerusalem an anonymous telephone caller said Force 17, a security branch of the mainstream Fatah movement of the Palestine Liberation Organization, had carried out the killings.

The attacks came in the aftermath of a clash October 8 in east Jerusalem during which Israeli security forces shot dead 21 Palestinian stonethrowers.

Another Palestinian died Wednesday from his wounds, but Palestinian sources said he had been shot by an Israeli civilian.

Hamas, Fatah Leaflets Call For Violence

TA2410115290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Oct 90 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] A man and a woman have been found stabbed to death in the Ramallah and Nabulus areas, apparently killed for being informers, Palestinian sources said.

The stabbings accompanied increased attacks on Israelis within the Green Line and calls for increased violence against "agents, Israeli soldiers and settlers," in recent Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah leaflets.

Mahmud Damarah, 40, from Mazra'ah near Ramallah, was found Monday night after being abducted by

masked men. An unidentified woman, about 30, from Rujayb, south of Nabulus, was discovered yesterday.

Hamas, the fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement, distributed a leaflet throughout the West Bank yesterday calling on Palestinians to escalate the jihad against the "Zionist enemy" who "conspired to destroy the al-Aqsa mosque."

It said the killings of three Israelis in Jerusalem on Sunday was "just the beginning."

It called for a general strike tomorrow to protest against the "al-Aqsa attack" and called on Israeli Arabs, as well as residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to come to al-Aqsa on Friday and for local worshippers to stage marches after Friday prayers.

Leaflets by Fatah and the PLO-allied United National Leadership issued since the Temple Mount riot have also called for the use of knives and other weapons to avenge the deaths of 21 Moslems.

In Tulkarm, yesterday, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] closed the Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir Girls' High School after stone-throwing demonstrations were broken up by tear gas, military sources said.

The Ramallah military court yesterday sentenced to long terms of imprisonment several shock-force leaders in the West Bank convicted of murdering Palestinian residents they suspected of being Israeli agents.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 24 October adds: "Another Palestinian has been found murdered in the territories. At the Nur-al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm, the body of a local resident, Muhammad Musa 'Azab, was discovered this morning. He had been knifed to death. A report says he was kidnapped by masked men three days ago, apparently on suspicion he was aiding the Israeli authorities."]

Squads Uncovered, Press Office Closed in Gaza

TA2610093990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Several Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads were recently uncovered in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Ziyad reports that in the Sabra neighborhood in Gaza City, the authorities detained three youths who had been active in the organization's popular committees and involved in disturbances and the erection of barricades designed to keep IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops out. In Khan Yunus, six youths were detained. They, too, had been active in a Hamas popular committee.

The trial of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the former Hamas leader, will be resumed early next month. In the Gaza City, the IDF authorities closed Faqir Abu-'Awn's press office. According to information, PLO officials operating abroad had financed the office, which liaised between them and Gaza activists.

Sha'wanah, Janin Arab Die of Wounds

TA2510115990

[Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 25 October, in a report by David Rudge on pages 1 and 9, states: "Police are to try and determine the cause of the death of 'Umar Sha'wanah, the Palestinian who allegedly stabbed two female soldiers near Qiryat Tiv'on on Tuesday." The report adds that "Sha'wanah, aged 39, of Silat al-Harithiyah village near Janin, died in Rambam Hospital in Haifa yesterday, less that 24 hours after he was admitted in a coma and suffering from severe head injuries."

Two other reports on page 10 of THE JERUSALEM POST deal with developments in the territories. Ron Kampeas reports that "two gasoline bombs tossed at a Border Police patrol in the Arab sector of the Jerusalem neighborhood of Abu-Tor yesterday evening landed on the street and did not ignite."

Matthew Seriphs notes: "A new center for culture and education was dedicated yesterday afternoon in Gaza. Present were British Consul Ivan Callan [name and title as published] and Palestinian leaders, including Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha, chairman of the Gaza Medical Association and Dr. Ahmad Yazchi of al-Ahali Arab Hospital.

"The center is designed to ease the awarding of scholarships and the provision of education to residents of the Strip, who have had to go to Jerusalem to receive British consular assistance. British officials had complained that the current unstable situation made this difficult."

Writing on page A2 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 25 October, Eytan Rabin, Yizhar Be'er, Re'uven Shapira, and Yehudit Grinblat report: "Riots occurred yesterday in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources reported clashes between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and residents in the al-Nusayrat refugee camp; two residents sustained injuries. Riots were reported also in the city of Gaza, where two residents were injured. The IDF spokesman reported one wounded. A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol in Gaza city; there were no casualties."

The report adds that "according to Palestinian sources, Janin resident Mahmud Lahluh, 19, who was wounded by Army gunfire and hospitalized in Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula three days ago, died of his wounds."

The report also states: "In Janin, a Molotov cocktail was hurled at the residence of suspected collaborator Naffa' Jabir. The man's mother fired at the attackers, driving them away. A Qalqilyah resident's car was attacked near the Samaria settlement of Yaqir; its windshield was shattered.

"In the Old City of Nabulus, hundreds of men and women formed a procession carrying UN flags and demanding UN intervention until a Palestinian state is established. The IDF dispersed the procession, causing a stone-throwing incident that ended without casualties."

An ITIM report on page A5 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ on 25 October states that "the young Arab woman from Yafo, who has been charged with membership in Fatah and conspiracy to create romantic ties with IDF officers of Druze extraction was yesterday sentenced by the Lod military court to 15 months in prison and was also given a 15-month suspended sentence."

Impasse Continues on Ethiopian Jewish Immigration

TA2410152390 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Oct 90 p A10

[Text] Israel expects Ethiopia to allow between 500 and 700 Jews every month to immigrate to Israel. This emerges from a report submitted by Uri Lubrani [coordinator of government activities in Lebanon] upon his return from Addis Ababa. Ethiopia, however, has refused to increase the emigrant quota.

Lubrani conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday and reported to him on his meeting with Ethiopian leader Mengistu.

Bodies closely monitoring efforts to bring the Ethiopian Jews to Israel reported last night that no breakthrough was made during Lubrani's mission.

Deputy Minister Leaves on Visit

TA2510205390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] This evening Deputy Science and Technology Minister Ge'ula Kohen departed for Ethiopia, where she will try to learn more about the condition of the Jews in the capital, Addis Ababa. The deputy minister has already met with several envoys who had visited Ethiopia and hopes to meet there with official government representatives.

Peres, SFRY's Kucan Discuss Europe, Relations

LD2410175990 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1342 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, October 24 (TANJUG)—President of the Israeli Labor Party Shimon Press has stated the hope that the Yugoslav peoples and republics would by way of an accord find a way out of the present difficulties.

In his talk on Tuesday evening with President of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia Milan Kucan, who is staying in Israel unofficially, Peres said the international community, especially the European countries, should uphold an accord reached among the Yugoslavs, because, in his view, a united Yugoslavia, and each of its republics, too, would after weathering the crisis be a respected factor in international relations. [passage omitted]

Official Says Full Ties To Resume

TA2610090990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The resumption of relations between Yugoslavia and Israel can be expected in the near future, said Dr. Aleksandar Prlja, the Serbian secretary for foreign relations, in an interview with IDF Radio.

In a talk with our foreign news editor Itay Engel, the Serbian foreign secretary said: A great majority of Yugoslavs enthusiastically support the resumption of full diplomatic relations with Israel. Such a move can be expected within a few months.

Manpower Increase Results in Higher Unemployment

TA2510145990 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 25 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem economic correspondent]

[Text] The number of registered job seekers at the employment bureaus reached 102,000 in September 1990, an increase of 15 percent as compared to September 1989. During the same month 47,300 certificates of eligibility for unemployment benefits were issued, with 13,100 of them being issued for the first time.

Our correspondent pointed out that there is an upswing in the demand for labor; however, as a result of the increase in manpower the number of unemployed has risen.

The number of Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip employed in Israel has reached almost 108,000. Approximately 33,000 of them have received permission to work from the Employment Services.

These workers are employed in various branches according to the following breakdown:

—construction: 63,000;
—agriculture: 12,500;
—industry: 11,000;
—tourism and others: 21,000.

Prince Hasan Speaks on Regional Events

JN2410205790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 gmt 24 Oct 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan delivered a lecture this evening at the al-Salt Cultural Center entitled "Jordan and Current Events in the Arab Homeland" in which he reviewed the scope and effect of the Gulf crisis on the region.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan said the world still views the Middle East lightly, and does not show any interest in the heated issues there, despite the dangers of these issues and their effects on the whole world.

His highness added that we in Jordan insist on solving Arab causes within the Arab fold. To do so, we proceed from our firm belief in the unity of the Arab nation, which is the slogan upheld by the Great Arab Revolt and followed by the Hashemites. Therefore, Jordan did not close the doors to the Arab brothers, but remained committed to its pan-Arab stand.

In his review of the Gulf crisis, his highness said an Arab solution had been possible, but the speedy development of events, the international condemnation, and the Arab League's condemnation of Iraq made the chance for solving the problem through peaceful negotiations very slim.

His highness said we in Jordan depend on international legitimacy in our view of things, such as rejecting the annexation or occupation of land by force. He called for the simultaneous implementation of principles regarding all issues in the region.

His Highness Prince Hasan also clarified that there is clear concentration on the subject of besieging Iraq and pressuring Jordan to change its stands, whose objectives are to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. He said that Jordan's adherence to its stance on the crisis agrees with its full belief in this cause. This position stems from its commitment to the firm principles entrenched by this country—its leadership and people—and its adherence to the international norms and implementation of the economic boycott on Iraq, despite the great harm that will befall us.

He said that the burdens experienced by Jordan exceed its capacity and capabilities resulting from the Arabs' hatred, the war of interests, and the end of the cold war. His highness affirmed that the Middle East region could play an important role in solving many of the current issues. He called for moving away from emotion and dealing with the issues of the region logically and sensibly, away from various forms of extremism, and preventing all sides from using destructive weapons.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan affirmed that this great challenge could contain an opportunity for peace, if we can have a comprehensive view of the political course combined with the international political and legal principles and the actual economic needs of hundreds of millions of people. He said that the French position could be one of the rare and final chances to end the crisis peacefully.

His highness once again warned against calls demanding military solutions to satisfy their declared and undeclared interests and goals, one of which is to maintain a large market to export destructive weapons to the region.

In answering the questions and remarks of the audience, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan said the strategic oil reserves in the region continue to be the focus of interest for the West and a major reason for occupying the entrances to the seas, in order to keep the oil and control its sources. He affirmed that Iraq's call for successfully solving the issues in the region through the United Nations could contribute to peace and stability in the region.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan expressed his hope that the bridges of trust between the countries in the region and the outside world will be rebuilt, and that international legitimacy will be imposed and its resolutions regarding stopping weapons of destruction and the discrepancies in economic opportunities be respected. He said that His Majesty King Husayn's contacts and talks with the Arab and international communities have been aimed from the outset at averting a huge catastrophe in the region and the world.

The lecture was attended by a number of ministers, senate members, deputies, al-Balqa' governor, and representatives from various popular and official bodies.

Crown Prince Views UN Resolutions, Oil Prices

JN2410211390 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Speech by Crown Prince Hasan on the occasion of United Nations Day at the United Nations Department offices in Amman, 24 October—recorded]

[Text] The sad message that I carry today is that the Arab-Israeli conflict is as polarized as it has ever been. In terms of human suffering, it is my incumbent duty to say that while we seek from the darkness and despair of the present crisis of the occupation and annexation of Kuwait, which we condemn in principle and on the basis of international law and the United Nations Charter, it is only fair to say that it is our hope that the principles which the United Nations seeks to enforce in ending annexation should not be limited to a particular conflict at the expense of other, longer-enduring situations of conflict, military occupation, and annexation.

And here, let me remind you, that whereas the Grand Commission 10 years ago spoke of a stabilization fund for oil prices, I find it horrifying to read today in one of the British newspapers the reference to an in-house United Nations report which highlights the enormous windfall profits totalling $154 billion—78 billion pounds sterling—a year, which OPEC and other oil-producing

developing nations could make from the military standoff, given an oil price of $40, and to feel effectively that this windfall profit would, in the main, be benefitting industrialized nations, including members of the permanent five.

Unless and until the United Nations is effective in opening channels for plowing these profits back into development and debt relief, the developing world stands not to gain from this crisis, either in its inception or as we live in this interim between war or peace, by the end of this year, but to be further devastated, not only by the direct effects of war, but by the indirect effects of military action.

Iraq Allows Citizens With Permits Into Kuwait

JN2510075790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Iraqi authorities have allowed all Jordanians and other nationals who have residence permits for Kuwait or visas from the Iraqi embassies to enter the Iraqi territories, regardless of the previously-announced 23 October deadline for the return of those who left Kuwait after 23 August 1990.

Sources at the Jordanian border post of al-Ruwayshid have said that as a result of this decision, the border post received a large number of citizens returning to Kuwait over the past 24 hours.

Minister, TAPLINE Differ on Resumed Pumping

JN2410165190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The minister of energy and mineral resources announced that he has asked the Saudi TAPLINE [Trans-Arabian Pipeline] Company to resume pumping oil to the Jordanian Oil Refinery, to calculate interest on $40 million—an amount which, the Jordanian Government has explained, the sisterly Saudi Government has exempted it from paying—and to continue to calculate the interest on this amount until this matter becomes clear. However, TAPLINE informed the ministry that it does not agree with this request, and noted that it will be ready to resume pumping after the amount is repaid, provided that the crude oil shipments are available when the order is submitted. This shows the lack of a definite commitment to continuous pumping.

Minister on Problems in Servicing USSR Debt

JN2410183090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Finance Minister Basil Jardanah met today with the Soviet side of the joint Jordanian-Soviet committee. They reviewed their financial relations. Each side stated its concern over implementing the first protocol between the two countries, concluded last February, which stipulated exporting Jordanian goods and products amounting to $42 million in one year as part of repayment on the debt interest incurred with the Soviet Union.

The minister expressed Jordan's willingness to cooperate with the Soviet side in this field, and to look into contracts to export Jordanian products which have not yet been implemented in an attempt to facilitate them.

Mr. Jardanah explained the huge financial difficulties that Jordan is shouldering as a result of the Gulf crisis, and Jordan's full adherence to and implementation of the UN resolutions, which have reflected negatively on the Kingdom's foreign currency income.

The minister affirmed the responsibility of the United Nations and the Security Council, especially its permament members, for compensating the countries that have been harmed by the implementation of the UN resolutions, foremost of which is Jordan. This requires Security Council countries to be more understanding than others on the situation and circumstances that Jordan is going through. During the meeting, which was attended by the under secretary of the Trade and Industry Ministry and the Soviet ambassador to Amman, the minister praised the good relations between the two countries.

State Bank Advises Against Foreign Money Deals

JN2410194290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1625 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 24 Oct (PETRA)—A responsible source at the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has stated that the CBJ is seeking to reorganize the exchange market and foreign currency dealings in the Kingdom, especially since the past two years have seen, for the first time in the history of the country, an unofficial market for dealing in foreign currencies.

The source affirmed that the CBJ has referred a draft law organizing exchange transactions in the Kingdom to the government, who will then refer it to Parliament for discussion in its coming session.

The source added that the CBJ considers dealings with foreign currency in the unofficial market illegal. It bases its argument on the Law on Foreign Currency Control, where Article 14 stipulates that no individual in the Kingdom can deal with foreign currencies or gold without a license from the CBJ. He pointed out that Article 17 of the same law punishes any violator of the regulations of Article 14 with a fine not exceeding 500 Jordanian dinars and no less than 50 Jordanian dinars.

It is worth noting here that the CBJ has during the past period sought to lessen the role of the unofficial foreign currency market through its monetary policy. However, as a result of the circumstances that have prevailed during the past two months, and the foreign factors accompanying them, which have no relation to the

economic and monetary situation in the Kingdom, the unofficial market for foreign currencies has resumed part of its activities.

The source called on citizens not to deal with this market in order to retain their savings, since it is hazardous because contains counterfeit banknotes.

Society Receives Thatcher Reply on Gulf Issues

JN2410102690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 90 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, says Britain is willing to help Jordan meet the consequences of the painful economic sanctions against Iraq if the Kingdom "demonstrates she (Jordan) is not prepared to compromise on the fundamental issues that confront us all."

In a letter she sent to General 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, chairman of the Jordan British Society, in reply to a Sept. 13 letter from the society expressing disappointment with the British position on the Gulf crisis, Mrs. Thatcher said that "the best way to achieve a peaceful solution (to the Gulf crisis) is through strict enforcement of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council. I recognise that the consequences of sanctions are painful for Jordan. But you have friends willing to help if Jordan demonstrates she is not prepared to compromise on the fundamental issues that confront us all. Britain is of course one of them."

The British ambassador to Jordan, Anthony Reeves, explained that the particular phraseology used by the prime minister should not be taken to mean that Britian was attaching conditions to helping Jordan in its endeavours to cope with the impact of the Gulf crisis and sanctions on Iraq.

"We have accepted that Jordan is fully committed to the sanctions, and we are doing our best to ensure that Jordan gets the help to needs," the ambassador told the Jordan Times. "We are putting our weight behind international efforts to help the Kingdom."

By including the word "if" in her sentence, the ambassador said, "Mrs. Thatcher is not questioning what Jordan has done vis-a-vis its commitment to international legitimacy."

Following is the full text of Mrs. Thatcher's letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times:

Thank you for your letter of 13 September about Britain's position in the Gulf crisis. It is right that good friends such as Britain and Jordan should be frank with each other. I wish to be equally forthright in my reply.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is a challenge to the rule of international law. Unprovoked aggression has no place in international relations. The unparalleled unanimity in the United Nations' response graphically illustrates the world-wide revulsion at what Saddam Husayn has done. To acquiesce would mean it would be someone else's turn next time.

The United Nations Security Council has demanded the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq: the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti government and the release of all hostages held in Iraq and Kuwait. These resolutions are mandatory. Like every other member of the United Nations Iraq is duty bound to comply with them. Failure to do so is a cynical rejection of the United Nations and international law. The best way to achieve a peaceful solution is through strict enforcement of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council. I recognise that the consequences of sanctions are painful for Jordan. But you have friends willing to help if Jordan demonstrates she is not prepared to compromise on the fundamental issues that confront us all. Britain is of course one of them.

You accuse us of double standards in our approach to the problem of Palestine. That is not so. The two cases—Israel's presence in the occupied territories and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait—are not exactly similar. In 1967, the closure of the Straits of Tiran and the withdrawal of the U.N. force led to conflict between Israel and the Arab states, in the course of which Israel occupied Arab territories. Security Council Resolution 242 called for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. Arab acceptance of the resolution years ago would have enabled Palestinians to achieve self-determination and Israel to live within secure borders. As it was, Arab countries did not accept Israel's right to exist within secure borders for many years: and the PLO only accepted Resolution 242 in 1988. The situation remains unresolved. However, Resolution 242 remains the framework for a settlement based on land for peace.

Saddam Husayn has done a grave disservice to the Palestinian cause by diverting world attention from the achievement of this goal by the invasion, destruction and purported annexation of Kuwait. We intend to address the problem of Palestine vigorously once the present crisis is over. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in contrast was a deliberate act of unprovoked aggression against a sovereign state and recognised as such by the international community including the Arab League. The speed of the U.N's response reflects this.

You say there was no time for an Arab solution. That was because of Saddam Husayn's invasion, not because of the presence of foreign forces. The Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organisation tried without success to prevent the crisis occurring. Saddam's only answer was to deceive his Arab colleagues, by breaking his promise to President Mubarak that he would not invade Kuwait. Saudi Arabia had no alternative but to request international military assistance to prevent an Iraqi invasion. It is thanks to rapid action by the United States, the Arab League, Britain, France and others that the aggression has been halted. There is no distinction

between an Arab and a U.N. solution—the only possible Arab solution is the removal of Saddam Husayn from Kuwait in accordance with the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

It is preposterous to claim that the U.S. is seeking to control the Gulf and its oil resources. It is equally preposterous to claim that the U.S. could enlist Europe and Japan to achieve these so-called aims. The U.S., like all other members of the international force, came in response to Saudi Arabia's request for military assistance.

There is no question of the U.S. or any other non-Arab country seeking to control Arab resources or subvert its culture. On the contrary it is Saddam Husayn who has entered uninvited into another sovereign Arab state and who has taken control of land and resources which are not his own. It is Saddam Husayn who has violated the sovereignty and independence of his fellow Arabs. The invasion is not solely an Arab matter. It is one for all of us who uphold, as you do, the right of self-determination, the sanctity of individual sovereign states and the right of individual and collective self defence.

We in Britain share these values and it is for this reason that we have joined with Arab nations and with the international community as a whole to force Iraq to comply with its international obligations.

Diplomats See 'Sense of Urgency' for Aid

JN2410104090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 90 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—A sense of urgency has been added to deliberations in various European capitals over financial assistance to Jordan to compensate for its losses resulting from the Gulf crisis, particularly that almost everyone agrees that the Kingdom is doing its best to adhere to the international sanctions against Iraq, its erstwhile main trading partner, according to Western diplomatic sources here. But no one is able to estimate with any degree of accuracy when this feeling will be translated into deeds through actual aid to the Kingdom.

Western diplomats also categorically deny that there are any ulterior political motives in delaying aid to Jordan as a means to apply political pressure on the Kingdom to change its position on the Gulf crisis.

"There is no doubt that (Jordan's) continued security and stability are in the interests of everyone," said a senior European Community (EC) diplomat. "Everyone also realises that an economic collapse of Jordan is imminent if urgent assistance is not extended," he added. "But the problem is," the EC official explained, "most European governments have not come up with definite commitments of pledge to be sent to the front-line states"—Jordan, Egypt and Turkey.

A senior Jordanian official noted that Japan and Germany had pledged about $450 million in emergency assistance to Jordan; Tokyo has pledged $100 million in commodity loans under soft terms and another $150 million under stricter terms. Germany has promised $130 million in emergency loans under soft terms in addition to $70 million in unappropriated amounts from earlier agreements.

"We are confident that Japan and Germany will honour their pledges," the official said. But, he noted, until now there has been no definite indication of assistance from other sources.

This uncertainty and delay, which borders on what some analysts believe to be "procrastination" and a form of political pressure, could be fatal for the Kingdom's fragile economy, which had taken important steps towards recovery just before the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

"We have no doubt whatsoever that Jordan is honest and sincere when it says that it is adhering to Resolution 661 (which imposed an international trade embargo against Iraq)," said the West European diplomat. "We are not in the least suspicious that Jordan is busting the sanctions, and this is the message we have been sending to our governments," he added. "Of course, one cannot overlook the fact that the Jordanian-Iraqi border is a very long one and there is always someone who looks for some easy money through smuggling. Even at that, we have to say that the Jordanians are very efficient in checking such attempts."

As far as the European assistance to Jordan is concerned, "I could categorically state that there are no political considerations behind the delay; it is only bureaucracy," he said.

"Over and above everything else, it is a shared belief among the diplomatic community that Jordan has adopted a very principled position," he said. "If there is a problem, then I suggest one should look across the Atlantic and perhaps to a certain extent to London for clues." American and British diplomats, however, reject any accusation that their countries are withholding aid from Jordan or pressuring other countries to do so. U.S. embassy diplomats in Amman refer to statements made by senior Bush administration officials, including Secretary of State James Baker, as proof that Washington believes Jordan is fully honouring sanctions against Iraq.

"In fact American officials, including Baker and (Treasury Secretary James) Brady, are lobbying for aid to Jordan," according to a senior American diplomat.

The British ambassador in Amman also rejected the suggestion that London was making any assistance to Jordan conditional on the Kingdom changing its policy on the Gulf crisis.

"Britain is very much interested in the continued stability and security of Jordan and realises that unless aid

comes in soon enough the country will be in serious trouble," a British diplomat also said.

Another EC diplomat who has been in Jordan for the past two years, said his government "is trying its best to reach agreement over the EC pledge of aid to Jordan, Egypt and Turkey."

"Unfortunately, I am in no position to tell you when such agreement could be reached despite the awareness in my country that Jordan is facing perhaps the most severe crisis in its history," he added. The diplomat who, like other who spoke to the Jordan Times, insisted on anonymity, conceded that some of the EC member states "are not exactly very enthusiastic about extending any aid to anyone."

"They argue that they have already contributed heavily in the form of direct or indirect participation in the multinational force in the Gulf and that is the extent to which they are going to go," he said.

But a senior EC envoy insisted that there was no change whatsoever in the community's pledge of 1.5 billion European Currency Units ($2 billion) to help the three "frontline states." He, along with others, also expressed his conviction that Jordan needed the aid more than the other two countries.

"In fact, there is an added sense of urgency that Jordan should receive the aid now," the senior EC official said. "But bureaucracy has to take its course, and I hope that the assistance would not be too late."

Commission Approves Paper on Political Parties

JN2410084190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] The general commission entrusted by His Majesty King Husayn to prepare a national charter, or a social contract to govern future political life in the Kingdom last week approved a document which lays the foundation for the establishment of political parties in the country.

The document, entitled "the state of law and political pluralism" asserts that the Jordanian constitution is the supreme source of authority in the Kingdom, and from it derives the legitimacy of political parties, organisations and freedoms.

Following is an unofficial translation of the full text of the document as endorsed by the 60-member commission.:

First: The state of law

1—The state of law is a democratic state which is committed to the supremacy of the law and which draws its legitimacy, authority and activities from the free will of the people. All the state's authorities shall be committed to ensure legal, judicial and administrative guarantees for the protection of human rights, dignity and political freedoms as based on Islam and which have been endorsed by the universal declaration on human rights as well as all international charters and agreements sponsored by the United Nations Organisation in this respect.

2—The state of Jordan is the state of law in the modern sense of the meaning of a democratic state and a state for all the Jordanian citizens regardless of their beliefs and views. The Jordanian state draws its power from the practical application of the declaration of equality, justice and equal opportunities, and also from the right to a chance for the Jordanian people to participate in taking decisions pertaining to the people's way of living and general affairs in a manner that would achieve stability and build confidence in the future and foster a feeling of concern for the state's organisations and a sense of national belonging.

Second: Basic principles for the state of law

1—Commitment to the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution in the letter and the spirit when handling legislative, executive and judicial authorities whithin the framework of right and justice.

2—Commitment to the principle that law rules supreme, guaranteed by full control on the part of the independent judicial authority.

3—Commitment, when practising democracy, to the principles of social justice and its requirements because it constitutes the essence of the democratic system.

4—Commitment, in free expression of views, to the principle of democratic dialogue totally independent from and free of all forms of pressure, and ideological intimidation at all public and official levels.

5—Neutrality on the part of governmental establishments in their dealings with the public and public institutions and refraining from any exploitation of institutions by any group, political party or bloc for political reasons, but rather in a manner that would not compromise the right of members of the public to political organisation. Military and civilian institutions should strictly abide by this principle so as to ensure success for the democratic system in the country.

a) In order to corroborate the above mentioned principles, certain measures should be taken to finalise the construction of constitutional institutions that would bolster the democratic edifice and achieve the following:

1—Enactment of those legislations that would pave the way for the creation of a permanent institution under a special law, to be called "grievances office" which would give further boosting to control state affairs and the state's dealings with its citizens. This should by no means compromise the effectiveness and efficiency of any administration and should underscore the important role of justice in the construction of the democratic society without compromising the prerogatives of the judiciary.

2—Adoption of necessary measures to set up a special body that would be entrusted with modernising the laws through studies of existing legislations with a view to achieving amendments. Recommendation in this respect should be submitted to the council of ministers and Parliament for approval.

3—A revision of the country's defence law and martial rule. A special legislation should be enacted to deal with emergency situations under a special defence law when martial rule is declared, but which must first be endorsed by Parliament to determine its duration, and should be subject to judicial control.

4—Revision of the constitutional articles dealing with the council of ministers' legislative authority as included in Articles 114 and 120 of the Constitution. These are related to the purchase of requirements for government businesses, and the Civil Service Commission. These authorities should be entrusted to Parliament.

5—Recommendation was given to revise the provisions of the Constitution in general and to take guaranteed measures to introduce amendments wherever possible and helpful to the democratisation process.

Third: Political pluralism

1—The concept of political pluralism is based on the principle of accepting different views in political, economic and social fields, and recognising the right of individuals, groups and organisations to set up their own parties and groups as long as they are committed to the provisions of the Constitution and the National Charter based on the Constitution.

2—The most solid guarantee for the democratic system in the country's political pluralism hinges on commitment to the following principles:

a) Respect for the principles of the democratic process by all the parties and political groups because such process is the best guarantee for justice and stability.

b) Consolidating the values of tolerance and respect of other people's beliefs and avoiding personal feuds and personal hostile attacks on the other individuals or groups.

c) Guaranatee for basic freedoms for all citizens in a manner that would provide protection for all elements in society and the rights of all individuals to free expression.

d) Guarantee of equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, men or women, without any discrimination.

e) Political parties, professional associations and voluntary groups together form an integrated democratic society whose mission is to ensure civic contribution to national efforts that would serve the nation for now and in the future. Therefore, these groups and organisations should not be made to serve as substitutes for government organisations.

f) There should be full protection for the civic and democractic charter of the state; therefore any attmept to tamper with this situation will be considered null from the start because it simply means an encroachment on the Constitution and a violation of the right of people to adopt the concept of pluralism.

g) All laws in general and those concerning political parties, press and publication and elections in particular should provide for respect for all basic rights and public freedoms.

Fourth: Principles and rules that control political groups and parties.

1—Jordanians have the right to create political parties or to join them provided that these parties' aims are legitimate and their methods are sound and within the law and they respect the principles and objectives of the National Charter. Laws on political groups or parties should by no means imply or include any provisions that would make the Constitution a tool to ban or destroy political parties.

2—Political action and political parties should be founded on pluralism, in ideology and organisation.

3—All political parties should openly declare their statutes and programmes, defining their objectives in political, social or cultural and economic fields.

4—Political parties should commit themselves to their declared programmes in word and deed and take into consideration the following:

a) Adoption of democratic methods with regard to statutes, the election of leadership and in conducting their political activities which should be held in a democratic atmosphere internally, and in dealings with the other political groups in the country.

b) Jordanian political parties should by no means be affiliated to non-Jordanian groups, and therefore they should never direct their own business and activities in a manner that would respond to directives or orders from abroad.

All political parties should also take into consideration the fact that the liberation of Palestine and Arab unity remain the most prominent objectives for all Arab countries.

c) Any political party entrusted with the executive authority or taking part in it should aim to achieve equality for all citizens regardless of their affiliations.

d) All political parties should depend for their financial resources on local revenues which should be made public and be subject to legal control.

e) Political parties should avoid involving officers from the armed forces, and the Public Security into their cadres in any way or form especially with the purpose of creating their own militias.

f) Political parties should have their own headquarters; and state institutions should by no means be made to serve their objectives nor should there be any attempt to involve religious or public administration organisations in any activities organised by political parties.

g) Only the judiciary holds authority to settle any violation related to "the political parties' law."

Column Urges Arabs To Leave Gulf Buildup

JN2510134890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 16

["I Say a Word" column by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar: "So We Can Go Beyond Words"]

[Text] The day before yesterday the United States increased its aid to Israel by $700 million. The excuse for this increase says the United States is giving extra aid to Israel to help it face the danger posed by Iraq.

If we are to assess U.S. aid to Israel during the past three months, which witnessed the deployment of U.S. and Arab forces in the Arabian Peninsula, we will find that this aid has indeed been considerable. For, in addition to the annual aid of $3 billion, the United States gave Israel $400 million to help it resettle emigrants from the Soviet Union. It also gave Israel sophisticated drones for reconnaissance purposes and several batteries of the Patriot missile, the latest anti-missile missile in the U.S. arsenal. The United States also renewed the agreement on stockpiling U.S. weapons in Israel with a new condition enabling Israel to use this stockpile when necessary. Finally, the United States gave Israel $700 million. All this was given on the excuse of helping Israel face Iraqi threats. It was also given while the armies of two Arab states are being deployed alongside the forces of the ally of our Israeli enemy in a confrontation against Iraq and helping to tighten the blockade on Iraq in order to bring it to its knees, certainly not just before the United States. For it is obvious that the United States is also assigning this task to its old protege and ally, Israel. The United States is currently fully equipping the Israeli army just as Britain and France fully equipped and prepared that army for the tripartite aggression on 'Abd-al-Nasir's Egypt in 1956.

It seems the brothers in Damascus have noticed what is happening and were alarmed to discover that the U.S. position toward Israel has not changed. While Israel is committing massacres in al-Aqsa and elsewhwere, the United States continues to protect it from the same UN Security Council measures and sanctions under which they dispatched their armies against Iraq. So, the Syrians issued their statement yesterday expressing their displeasure with this state of affairs. This is understandable of course. But mere words are not enough. What is required of our Syrian brothers is to immediately pull out of the U.S. military buildup. We also call on the other Arabs to pull out from this buildup. Furthermore, we call on Saudi Arabia to announce the truth and say that it is not being threatened by Iraq or anyone else. We also call on the United States to withdraw its forces and leave the region. Above all, we call for lifting the blockade on Iraq. For, it is inconceivable for the Arab states to take part in this blockade in an attempt to bring Iraq to its knees while the United States is arming Israel for its designs against Iraq.

As for the Gulf crisis, the Arabs alone can resolve it and then turn around to confront Israel and the United States.

Saudis, Egypt 'Drawing Strength' From U.S.

JN2410153890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Oct 90 p 22

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Language of War and Peace"]

[Text] If only King Fahd would stop using the U.S. President's translated language about an immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal and cut down on using Prime Minister Thatcher's language about Saddam Husayn saving face; if only President Mubarak would lessen his talk about our readiness to go to war and about destroying the Iraqi power, it would be better for the two political systems, each of whom knows that they are not their own masters when it comes to decisionmaking; that President Bush's language befits his size and that of his country; and that war and peace are made by a sword of steel and not wood, and by people who have control over their own will.

A ranking French official like Jacques Chirac warns his government that regarding the Arabian Gulf crisis, it cannot control its own decisions if the Americans decide on war, despite the fact that he knows France has confined its military role to the Security Council resolutions only, and despite the fact that he knows that the role of the limited French forces on the Peninsula is defined by a political as well as a symbolic commitment to defend Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Nevertheless, he warns his government against unwillingly finding itself at war.

If France, with its international stature, is in such a state, then what is the state of the smaller countries? Can countries like Bangladesh, Senegal, Pakistan, or others make their decisions or partnerships in war or peace matter? Are the circumstances, interests, and accounts of whoever places 200,000 soldiers in the trenches equal to those who place 1,000 or 10,000 soldiers?

We have not heard the same language from King Fahd when he talks about the Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the Golan Heights, and Palestine. We have not heard from President Mubarak that he is ready for war for the sake of Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. Is the al-Sabah regime, which has statistically been proven to be nothing but a shareholding company limited, dearer to the hearts of the king and the president than Palestine, southern Lebanon, and the Golan Heights? Or is it that

the American and Atlantic fleets and armies are the ones who create this language and put the words in their mouths?

Washington cannot wage war on Iraq after the strength of the U.S. Administration has started to break up internally, and after the Western alliance has started to catch its breath and discover that the U.S.-British oil hysteria will be destroyed if Western interests continue. If Washington has reached the decision that hysteria has reached its highest peak and that we must directly or indirectly deal with the existing political facts, the continuation of the Arab countries to deal with facts through a language of hysteria and expressions about waging war is a pitiful situation. It is more like the singing of a frightened person at night. He does not enjoy his singing, but cures his fear by creating another voice next to him.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt are behaving as though they are in a position of power, but they are not in such a position. The people in Egypt and Saudi Arabia are nonetheless Arabs, and can still distinguish between the Americans in Saudi Arabia and the Americans in Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan Heights. They still understand the reasons for the huge Atlantic and American military buildup around the oil sources, ports, and corridors.

Drawing strength from the Americans is a situation Yitzhaq Shamir can cope with. However, we do not know how an Arab, whoever he may be, can cope with it without batting an eyelid.

Editorial Says Saudi Decisionmaking Confiscated

JN2510112390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Quick Response to U.S. Pressures"]

[Text] Saudi King Fahd's statements yesterday came to frustrate the hopes revived by Prince Sultan's statements and to cast doubts on the cohesion among the decisionmakers in Saudi Arabia, especially since those statements contradicted all the previous signs that made one optimistic that there is still room for wisdom to avert the huge fire which may consume the Arabian Peninsula.

The most interesting thing about King Fahd's statements is that they were characterized by unusual sharpness, unknown to the Saudi diplomacy which is renowned for maintaining some of the desert mystery that helps it to manage things and deal with situations at a later stage according to developments that cannot be predicted in advance.

Although these statements, with their exaggerated extremism, can be regarded as among the most prominent signs of division and disagreement within the ruling Saudi family, we are more inclined to view these contradictions as new because of the external pressures exerted on the decisionmakers in Saudi Arabia.

It is no longer a secret that the United States has quickly moved to remove all the positive signs left by Prince Sultan's statements which gave rise to a simple optimism about the general situation in the region. This would make us think that the advocators of the war option in Washington and London are the ones who dictated, in letter and spirit, those statements with their sudden sharpness and inflexibility.

With such extremist statements, the United States, which has a force of 200,000 soldiers in the Saudi territories, is trying to occupy the Saudi political process and transform it into an obedient tool to serve the Atlantic buildup in the east of the Arabian Peninsula. It also aims to end any difference between the positions of Washington and Riyadh on the future of the Gulf crisis.

Therefore, we feel really sorry for those who have tied their decisionmaking to the will of the unholy American alliance and placed the fate of the entire region under the feet of the ugliest military power known in the history of man, where the Australian, the Senegalese, the Bangladesh, the Argentine, and the Arab are standing alongside the real power—the United States itself.

The most dangerous thing which the U.S. pressures—which, anyhow, have not observed secrecy—may lead to is the possibility of Saudi Arabia losing its political freedom and being forced in the future to set up alliances which no one ever dreamt of.

Before accepting the vanguards of the U.S. forces, has any of them thought that the price would be so dear that the Saudi political decisionmaking would be confiscated. And, have they thought about the material burden resulting from paying the price of a foreign military presence on the sacred Muslim lands.

Saudi 'Reconciliatory Gesture' to Iraq Hailed

JN2410133790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Oct 90 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Why Did Riyadh's Position Annoy Washington?"]

[Text] Following Saudi Arabia's reconciliatory gesture toward Iraq, the United States hastened to voice its annoyance with the positive implications of the new Saudi position, especially since that position expresses a major Saudi trend.

The statements made by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second man in Saudi Arabia, which were first denied, explained, and then confirmed, constitute an initial sign of a new position that will emerge from the traditional Saudi wisdom.

If this position can be developed in the future, it may provide a real key to coordinated diplomatic Arab and international efforts to avert the war option, the flames of the battle, and the complete destruction of both Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

We hope, therefore, that Prince Sultan's statements are a strong sign of a growing Saudi awareness of the grave dangers threatening Saudi Arabia and the whole region as a result of the presence of the foreign armies, which are creating security, social, political, and war dangers and threatening everyone in the region.

We sincerely believe, therefore, that if such a position is crystallized by Riyadh in the future, a door will open for resolving the disputed issues within the framework of the one Arab home and Arab relations away from foreign interference, which has always complicated the situation and increased differences among Arabs.

As we do not hesitate to publicly welcome the Saudi willingness to reconcile with Iraq, we hope that Saudi Arabia will crystallize a Saudi policy capable of pulling the carpet from under the feet of the Anglo-Saxon alliance and of turning over a new leaf in inter-Arab relations, which are about to founder on the rock of the Gulf crisis.

Government Support for Sanctions Criticized

JN2510085390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 90 p 4

[By Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] The bumper sticker on an old Mercedes car perfectly described the mood in Jordan over applying the U.N. imposed economic sanctions against Iraq. It said "Damned if I do, damned if I don't. So Damn it, I will."

Simply put, the country seems to feel that it is damned if it abides by the sanctions and damned if it does not. The public, however, given the pressures the Kingdom is subjected to, is in effect saying: Jordan should not comply with the sanctions.

If we are suffering as a result of the trade embargo against our main trading partner, Iraq—which we as people are supporting in its position against the rest of the world—and we have received only a trickle of the needed aid to continue living, then we should not abide by the sanctions. What good has complying with the embargo brought us except bringing us to the verge of an economic collapse?

The Jordanian public has been explicity supportive of Iraq and very critical of the U.S. and its allies in this crisis, without the government trying to interfere or ban this freedom of expression. This is all fine. But why in the world should the government actually be taking the other side when the issue boils down to choking Iraq and preventing food, milk and medicine from reaching its children and people? Whose side is the official position really on?

Last week, the prime minister personally ordered the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) to stop a convoy of basic food, medicine and milk for the children of Iraq, only two hours before the trucks were scheduled to leave Amman. This shipment, the fourth of its kind since the sanctions were imposed on Iraq was donated from generous individuals and institutions who care for the well-being of innocent children who literally have nothing to do with decisions taken by world leaders, this time by a supposedly peace-loving international body, the United Nations.

If Jordan is a true sister of Iraq, and if practically the entire population of this country is supporting the Iraqis, then why is the government stopping purely humanitarian goods from reaching Arab children? Are our officials willing to take responsibility for starving a brotherly nation?

It is obvious that Jordan has come under a lot of pressure for not siding with the U.S. and its allies, which is an honourable position; and it is also understandable that the government of such a small financially-troubled state had to do what it did.

But were we not promised compensation for abiding by the sanctions and have we received hardly anything that would cover even a small portion of our loss? What is the government trying to prove here? It has repeatedly stated that it is abiding with the sanctions and the West has taken this with scepticism and continues to threaten not to give aid if Jordan was busting the embargo. How long are we going to beg for money? If we don't receive it, fine. We should bust the sanctions with Iraq—a country that has returned our Arab dignity and made us proud of having this Arab identity.

It is difficult to understand why our own government, which is supposed to be leading a democratic experiment, is stopping basic supplies to Iraq. If the government wants to prove to the American policeman in the region, which includes foreign journalists who continue to fish for any clues that Jordan may be busting sanctions, or that we are a "civilised" nation that believes in international law, then the government should not abide by this "international law," i.e. Resolution 661, until and unless the rest of the world abides by other international laws in the region and respects the clauses of SCR 661 which calls for compensation to countries like Jordan.

What interest does the Jordanian government have in stopping medicine from going to Iraq—be it for commercial or humanitarian reasons? Even the British interpreted Resolution 661 as excluding food and medicine, and so should we.

I doubt that on this one, the government is representing the will of the Jordanian people, because the people do not want to be held responsible for starving a sister country which needs us more than ever.

It is time the government stopped stooping to the U.S. and its allies. We are not getting anything from any of them, including and especially the U.S.' Arab allies. We are already under siege along with Iraq. It is time we face it and look for our own national interests.

That's why we are damned if we do and damned if we don't abide by the sanctions. So why the hell should we, if it means starving not only the Iraqis, but also ourselves?

PLO Official Holds Press Conference 23 Oct

JN2410174590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Oct 90 p 9

[Excerpts] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department and assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has said that war starts from Palestine, and that peace also originates in Palestine. He was referring to the strong link of all the crises in the region and the need for seeking an all-encompassing solution.

Speaking at a press conference held yesterday afternoon at the Palestinian Embassy in Amman, 'Abd-Rabbuh added that the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories is explosive and rife with the possibility of broader, more comprehensive, and bloodier explosions. [passage omitted]

He also said that the Palestinian people feel that the Security Council is suffering from U.S. and British pressures. He noted that the Security Council has not adopted the minimum level of measures and resolutions needed to put an end to the crimes and massacres of Israeli occupation. Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh asserted that this failure on the part of the Security Council is leading today to a possibly broader explosion in the lands of the occupied Palestinian state.

He added that the only way to put an end to this bloody series is by providing international protection for our people in our occupied homeland and Holy Jerusalem, and dispatching UN forces to the occupied Palestinian territories. Nothing short of this solution will prevent the possibility of a wide explosion, he said. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh attributed the frequent postponement of the Security Council meetings and the maelstrom into which the Security Council was drawn concerning the fact-finding mission to a game of the British Government, which has chaired the Security Council in lieu of Washington. He said that the international community and the Security Council should undertake an all-encompassing treatment of the situation in the region and find solutions to all conflicts, particularly the Palestine question, since it is the essence and basis of all explosions in the region.

He also asserted that the war of daggers against the settlers and usurpers of Jerusalem is just the beginning of a battle waged by the Palestinian people by all means in order to protect the capital of their homeland and their sanctities and existence.

Answering a question by AL-RA'Y about the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon and the Gulf countries, he said that the PLO supports the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon and that it supports extending the legitimate authority all over its national soil, primarily in the land to the south, which is occupied by the Israeli enemy. [passage omitted]

He also asserted the need to protect our people from the Israeli danger, liberate south Lebanon from Israeli occupation, and extend support to the legitimate Lebanese Government. He said we support the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon over all its territories, and this is an unswerving tenet of Palestinian policy.

Concerning the suffering of Palestinians in the Gulf countries, he said: We have held various contacts and made arrangements to resolve many of the problems from which our people in the Gulf are suffering. He went on to say: We have contacted a number of Gulf countries and told them that harming Palestinian interests through deportation, expulsion, or economic pressures would have serious effects in the long run, and that these actions should immediately stop. We also noted that Palestinians should not bear the blame for the failure of the policies adopted by some countries and regimes in the Gulf. 'Abd-Rabbuh asserted that any infringement on the interests of our people in the Gulf is in effect an infringement on and a conspiracy against the interests of the intifadah.

Answering a question on the recent resolutions issued by the Jerusalem Committee and the Arab League Council, he said: These are good resolutions in harmony with the Palestinian position and are based on the Palestinian paper submitted to the two meetings. He added, however, that there is a big difference between adopting resolutions and applying them. He said: We are asking Arab and Islamic countries to take the first step; that is, to work within the framework of the Security Council and to call for international protection for Palestinians and for the imposition of sanctions on Israel.

'Abd-Rabbuh declared that the PLO has undertaken extensive efforts and endeavors to resolve the Gulf crisis. He asserted, however, that "we are not mediators. We stand with Iraq against any danger that threatens Iraq and the Arab nation. We also support a solution within the Arab framework."

Answering a question on the relationship between Iranian and Palestinian leaders, he said: It is a good and developed relationship. Palestinian delegations pay frequent visits to Tehran, and there are continuing contacts between us. He also asserted that the Iranian position rejects the U.S. and foreign presence in the Gulf, indicating that this position provides an important factor of deterrence to any military adventure.

Regarding the financial siege imposed on the PLO and the intifadah, he asserted that the U.S. decision to deplete PLO resources has been made. He noted, however, that these are illusions because Palestinian and Arab peoples possess great resources to support the intifadah; therefore, their siege will not achieve its objectives. He wondered why the funds spent to finance the

U.S. forces in the Arabian desert were not allotted to the Palestinian intifadah and other problems in the Arab region?

Answering another question, he said that the military and political options are equally valid. He said our efforts, along with those of Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn, are tirelessly seeking conditions and possibilities for a political solution within the Arab framework and in harmony with international legitimacy.

Answering a question by AL-RA'Y, he said that all Palestinian factions have the right to enter through the doors of the PLO, even the Damascus-based factions. He wondered why these factions did not attend the recent Central Council meetings, thus isolating themselves from responsibility for the course of Palestinian struggle.

He added that there is no going back from the PLO policy and the Palestinian peace program. There will also be no retreat from the decisions adopted by the National Council in Algiers. Our people inside the homeland and in the diaspora have rallied around this line of action. We will not render a service to Shamir and Washington because we know full well that this line of ours is a line of struggle, and it supports the struggle of our people and their victorious intifadah.

Concerning efforts being made by Moscow, Paris, and Beijing to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully, he said: We support the Iraqi-French dialogue; we also support dialogue with all parties, especially since the U.S. position rejects dialogue and wants to check any advancement toward a balanced solution.

He asserted that a number of international forces want to be responsive. We learned this from the tour of the Soviet envoy in the region, he said. He also asserted that Palestinian contacts with France, Moscow, and the PRC are under way, and that all of these are leading in positive directions, defusing war in the Gulf, and providing a prelude to a political solution.

Reported Syrian Role in UK-Iran Hostage Deal

NC2510124690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Today's press reports in Doha say that during their summit last month Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad obtained a personal pledge from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that the file of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon would be closed before the end of this year.

Quoting a prominent Muslim fundamentalist source in Lebanon, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB says that the British Government agreed to restore diplomatic relations with Tehran last month after Damascus conveyed to it Rafsanjani's pledge regarding the release of the British hostages, perhaps ahead of the release of the U.S. hostages.

Al-Huss May Step Down for Health Reasons

NC2510182990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Government sources have disclosed that although yesterday's cabinet statement made no mention of preparations to form a comprehensive national reconciliation government, this topic has been moved to the front burner. The sources cite the prime minister expressing the hope that a new government will be formed to take care of the tasks ahead. The prime minister was cited as saying that he cannot continue to assume these tasks for health reasons which make it hard for him to stay in his post.

Ja'ja' Says 'Military Confrontation' Ended

NC2510192490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] In an interview with REUTER tonight, Lebanese Forces commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' said that the Lebanese Forces are not in military confrontation with any Lebanese party that has accepted the al-Ta'if agreement for peace in Lebanon. Dr. Ja'ja' said that the Lebanese Forces' relations with all Lebanese sides have become political.

Dr. Ja'ja' said: Our opinion now is that anyone who has accepted the al-Ta'if agreement has to be treated in accordance with that agreement. We also believe that we have no military problem or acute problem with any Lebanese party that accepts that agreement. Our view is that all those parties who have accepted the al-Ta'if agreement have moved from the phase of military confrontation to that of political confrontation. Therefore, we have no hostilities toward anyone. We are prepared to begin the long march toward establishing national reconcilation and ending all hostilities.

Ja'ja' Urges New Government, Solution to Militias

NC2610095890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has stated it is necessary to establish a greater Beirut. He declared, however, that the task of the current government is over and that we now need a serious and balanced national accord government.

While welcoming the establishment of a Greater Beirut, the Lebanese Forces commander stressed that the state must demonstrate its credibility, particularly in the al-Matn regions. He added: When the situation returns to normal, then it will be possible to think of further stages.

In an interview with REUTER, he said: We cannot consider any security measure encompassing a Greater Beirut that will affect the Lebanese resistance [Lebanese Forces] but not other Lebanese and non-Lebanese groups. He emphasized that such security measures must apply to all groups.

He announced that the state of hostility was not directed at the Lebanese Army itself but at General 'Awn's policy and despotism. Dr. Ja'ja' added: The Lebanese Army is all we have and we want to rely on it.

Concerning the current government, the Lebanese Forces commander noted that its task is over because it was a government created under special circumstances which no longer exist. He added: We should follow the al-Ta'if agreement, as we urgently need to use this agreement as a starting point. We need a serious and balanced national accord government.

He explained that the current government is not suitable for the current and coming stages. He said that it had, however, carried out its duties with regard to ending Gen. 'Awn's rebellion.

Dr. Ja'ja' declared that the Lebanese Forces no longer have any military conflicts with any other Lebanese party which has accepted the al-Ta'if agreement for peace in Lebanon. He explained that the Lebanese Forces' relations with these parties have now become political. He added: There is no longer a state of hostility between us and any other party. We are now in a position to embark on a long process of national reconciliation, rapprochement, and the elimination of hostility.

Asked if the cycle of violence in Lebanon will recur, Dr. Ja'ja' replied: We hope it will not recur—that is, if the al-Ta'if agreement is properly implemented. However, if it is implemented piecemeal, if some of its provisions are ignored, or if there is an attempt to circumvent it in any way, the violence may recur.

Dr. Ja'ja' also said that he prefers to find a solution to the issue of the militias instead of disbanding them. He explained that the solution will come through removing the factors that led to their creation, noting that the militias appeared as a result of the foreign military presence in Lebanon. He affirmed that all the militias will be disbanded when there is no longer any armed presence except that of the state.

Dr. Ja'ja added that the the militias' personnel will remain on the scene, but play another role and engage in other activities. He noted that if duty calls, they will

again shoulder their responsibilities as they did when the Lebanese civil war broke out

Nabih Birri Supports Disbanding of Militias

JN2310172590 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1853 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Interview with Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, by an unidentified reporter in Beirut on 22 October—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Today is 22 October. Ten days have passed since the step taken by the legitimate government with Syria's support. How do you assess this step?

[Birri] In the wake of the decision taken by the Syrian leadership under President Hafiz al-Asad in 1976, this is considered the second major step to decide the issue of Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and survival within its legitimate and constitutional institutions.

[Reporter] Mr. Nabih: New ideas are surfacing with regard to the priorities of the legitimate government. Let us say new ideas regarding the political priorities in Lebanon. How do you view this issue?

[Birri] Let us say frankly there are proposals related to the issue of the government. This is despite the fact that the Amal Movement is not concerned with the issue of the government—in the past, in the future, and in the current period. I am very concerned to say that the issue of the government is a secondary one, if we are discussing the basic issues from which we should benefit. A local proverb says strike the iron while it is hot. In my opinion, what is required is to achieve the objective of greater Beirut as the first step. It is like the drop of oil that will later spread throughout Lebanon. It is also necessary to dissolve the militias and move the Army to the south, because the basic problem is there. Lebanon can restore its unity only through the south. And you know that the south is bleeding in its northern part, in Iqlim al-Tuffah. It has not been bleeding only since 1982, but since 1948, and in particular since 1978, the first Israeli invasion of the southern part. Lebanon cannot recover while its southern part is suffering. Therefore, these are the basic steps—that is, achieving the unity of greater Beirut; dissolving the militias; and moving the Army to the south. And then, the issue of the government comes before, after, or during these issues. [sentence as heard] The issue of the government is really a secondary one.

We should not deal with issues in the Lebanese way—that is, by discussing governmental affairs, appointing ministers from here and there—particularly since, every day a security issue might arise here or there to pull us back. We have learned this from the Lebanese experience. Uprooting 'Awn does not mean ending the Lebanese disease. There are many diseases in Lebanon. However, the most serious disease in the head was the 'Awn disease.

Very frankly, had it not been for the Syrian Arab Army and its sacrifices, 'Awn could not have been uprooted. We should benefit from this to remove all diseases.

[Reporter] Our viewers know that the Amal Movement has a force on the ground. Do you in the Amal Movement agree on dissolving the militias in harmony with national reconciliation?

[Birri] Amal, is not a militia in the full meaning of the word. The Amal Movement is not an alternative to Lebanese legitimacy; the Amal Movement has fought to maintain legitimacy, Lebanon's Arabism, survival, and unity as well as to liberate Lebanese territory from the Israeli enemy.

The Amal Movement calls for dissolving the militias, because as His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad told President al-Hirawi yesterday, and as Imam Musa al-Sadr said: The best resistance to Israel comes from the unity of the Lebanese homeland.

Therefore, we are the first to dissolve the militias. And we will begin with ourselves, not with others.

[Reporter] Mr. Nabih: You have answered many of the questions I wanted to ask you and made the road shorter for me. And today I do not know how to...

[Birri interrupting] This is intentional.

[Reporter] Mr. Nabih: Would you like to say something through Syrian Arab Television?

[Birri] I would like to say to my kinfolk and brothers in the Syrian leadership, among the Syrian people, and, particularly, among the Syrian Army: What the Syrian Arab Army did last Saturday was not only in the interest of Lebanon, but also in the interest of Syria and the Arab nation. On 31 August, I appealed to His Excellency President al-Asad saying: They entered the Gulf to take away a homeland; make your entry to return a homeland, making it the last war and the beginning of peace. And this is what has been achieved and what will be achieved, God willing.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Your Excellency the minister.

[Birri] Thank you.

Dallul Says No 'Red Lines' in Greater Beirut

NC2510154290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The committee made up of Ministers Muhsin Dallul and Albert Mansur held a meeting today, in accordance with the cabinet's instructions. The committee set up a mechanism for its future action and contacts on the Greater Beirut plan, on which there still are some differences in views, particularly over obstacles to the plan.

In a statement after the meeting, Minister Dallul affirmed that there are no red lines as far as greater Beirut is concerned. He added that the authority will define the red lines, and expressed his belief that things are proceeding faster than many believe. He added: We began our activity yesterday by making some contacts. Today we met and set up a mechanism for action, including how the contacts will be made, the timetable for the contacts, and the parties to be contacted.

He referred to what was published in the press today on the agreement of more than one party to the greater Beirut issue. He added: The deadlines in this respect will be defined later, in light of our contacts, because the greater Beirut area is not what it used to be. It has become deeper and longer, and it will be delineated in light of our contacts, our military capabilities, and the Army's capability for deployment, he added.

Regarding a question on the Palestinian armed presence as well the Palestinian camps within the greater Beirut area, Minister Dallul said this issue will require another solution and other contacts later on. However, it is forbidden for armed Palestinians and non-Palestinians to enter the greater Beirut. He stressed that the situation inside the camps will be resolved through dialogue with the Palestinians.

Hizballah Official Supports Greater Beirut Plan

NC2510205990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Shaykh Na'im Qasim, an official of the pro-Iranian Hizballah, stated this evening that if the justifications which prompt others to try to suppress us are eliminated, there will be no need for conspicuous weapons. Answering journalists' questions, Shaykh Qasim said: We have only carried arms to defend our existence. He supported the establishment of greater Beirut.

Hizballah, Amal Discuss Army Deployment in South

NC2610082390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] A Hizballah source has stated that yesterday's meeting in 'Anjar between Hizballah and the Amal Movement under the auspices of Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran discussed a basic point; namely, the Army deployment in the south. The source noted that an agreement was reached to send food supplies to the beleaguered inhabitants of Iqlim al-Tuffah and to repair water tanks in Nab'al-Tasi. This will be done under the supervision of representatives from Hizballah and Amal. The source added that the next meeting between Hizballah and Amal will be eld on 28 October.

SSNP Gunmen Removed From Phalangist Center

NC2310211490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] According to security sources from the two al-Matn regions this evening, a Lebanese Army force surrounded the newly established Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] center at the juncture of 'Akwar road and forced the party members stationed there and in the adjoining Phalangist party center to leave, thus preventing them from playing any role in the region. These sources said that the Army unit also confiscated machine guns, rockets, and radios from the SSNP gunmen. All roads in the region were reopened at 1930 today.

According to reports, it was decided on the sidelines of the Syrian-Lebanese summit that all party offices in the two al-Matn regions, including the Phalangist Party offices, must be returned to their owners.

Five Civilians Said Wounded in Al-Rashidiyah Raid

JN2510173590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] A Palestinian source has stated that the Zionist air raid launched yesterday on the Palestinian camp of al-Rashidiyah near Tyre in southern Lebanon by Zionist planes resulted in the wounding of five civilians. The source added that the missiles of the Zionist warplanes also hit a school in the camp.

Zionist warplanes raided the Palestinian camp of al-Rashidiyah yesterday. The Zionist enemy radio claimed that the air raid targeted centers and bases from which Katyusha rockets were fired on Palestinian territories occupied in 1948.

Intermittent Clashes, Israeli Overflights in South

NC2610112290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpts] An Israeli force consisting of three armored personnel carriers and three jeeps entered the Shab'a township this morning and mounted a major search under the pretext of looking for resistance fighters.

Intermittent clashes with rockets and machine guns are taking place on the Lib'a-'ayn-al-Mir-Kafr Falus combat lines east of Sidon. They follow overnight exchanges of artillery fire between the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces of the Popular Liberation Army and the Lahd militia positions. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Israeli fighter aircraft overflew Sidon and the nearby camps this morning, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Primakov Delivers Gorbachev Message to Al-Asad

JN2610063590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1245 yesterday Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidium and President Mikhail Gorbachev's adviser and personal envoy. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Zotov attended.

Mr. Primakov conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad a message and greetings from President Gorbachev. The president asked him to convey a reply message and greetings to President Gorbachev and the friendly Soviet people. Conversation during the meeting centered on the Gulf crisis.

Departs 26 Oct

JN2610084890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidium and President Mikhail Gorbachev's adviser and personal envoy, left Damascus this morning at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the director of the Protocol Department, the director of the Eastern European Department, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

In a statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, Mr. Primakov described his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad as extremely important. He said: Meetings with the president make me feel very satisfied because of his intelligence and talent for leadership.

Media Criticizes U.S. Support for Israel

TASS Commentary Noted

JN2410191090 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1835 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] In Moscow, TASS has affirmed that the U.S. Senate's decision to supply Israel with U.S. weapons and equipment estimated at $700 million is an unjustified step and adds a new factor to instability in the Middle East. In a commentary today, TASS said that this decision is not in harmony with international efforts to search for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. TASS added that this decision is also not in harmony with the challenge declared by the government of Yitzhaq Shamir vis-a-vis the international community, including the challenge to the position of the United States itself with regard to not settling the immigrants in the occupied Arab territory, including occupied Jerusalem.

U.S. Responsible for 'Aggression'

JN2610094290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "Arming Israel and the Need To Study the Directions of Threat," AL-BA'TH reviews the continuous U.S. military support to the Zionist entity, particularly after each massacre committed by its troops in occupied Palestine in a flagrant challenge against international resolutions. AL-BA'TH says that renewing this support is a U.S. reward to Israel for its crimes.

AL-BATH says: The United States of America was not only satisfied with the military support to Israel. While it was voting in the UN Security Council for the resolution condemning the al-Aqsa crime, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy was announcing new settlement plans, directly financed by the United States with $400 million. Therefore, and since everybody is convinced that the U.S. support to Israel is directed—first and foremost—against the Arabs, Arabs have only to study the directions of the threat and understand that the U.S. weapon in the Zionist hand is the threat itself.

Under the headline "The United States and the Game of Shuffling Cards," AL-THAWRAH refers to Israel's aggressiveness and categorical rejection of peace, which depend on U.S. support. AL-THAWRAH wonders: What does it mean when Washington has more than one initiative for settlement, regardless of its contents, and Israel is the first to reject it? Baker's plan is only one example. What can we call the financial and military support—with huge funds and the most modern U.S. military hardware—except support for aggression, for strengthening of Israel's capabilities to expand, and encouraging it to invade and reject peace? Also, what can we call everything that Washington and Tel Aviv are trying to show as differences except an attempt to throw dust in the eyes, especially when the matter concerns settlement and peace in the region?

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Washington's persistence in linking its recent support to Israel with developments in the Gulf crisis is an exposed attempt to shuffle the cards and divert attention from its support for Israel. This serves its intransigence, arrogance, and haughtiness. U.S. support for Israel exaggerates the Israeli threat, which is increasing with intensive Jewish immigration, for which Washington provides funds to settle the immigrants. This threat will never disappear from the Arabs' eyes regardless of the size of the threat in the Gulf, which in itself was in the interest of Israel, as everybody knows.

In its second commentary entitled "Aggression and the U.S. Responsibility," AL-THAWRAH says: In determining the responsibility for the Israeli aggression, U.S. policy must take a great share. It even shares this responsibility half-and-half for its encouragement of aggression. We do not need much effort to prove this fact. The details of the absolute U.S. bias in favor of Israel are known by the Arabs and the whole world. What is strange about this absolute and blind bias is the fact that it is not only confined to extending

military, economic, and political support to aggression, but goes beyond this even to provide justifications for backing aggression and a cover for them. The United States of America has followed such a line in the past. It is following the same line now through building a weak, baseless connection between its resolutions of support for Israel—supplying it with the most modern U.S. weapons—and the Gulf crisis and the Iraqi stand on Kuwait.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH stresses: This line to link the Gulf crisis with supplying Israel with the means of aggression lacks objective logic and ignores irrefutable evidence. It only aims to justify U.S. policy and Israeli aggression, which could not have continued without Washington's support.

U.S. Losing Credibility

JN2510153090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The United States has on more than one occasion issued statements about peace in the Middle East, alluding to a desire and eagerness for the peace process in this region. Secretary of State James Baker has personally added his name to the lists of former state secretaries who launched initiatives for settlement. Thus, Baker put forward what was called the Baker initiative, which aimed at arranging negotiations in the region. This initiative, however, has not met with any more success than the former U.S. initiatives, owing to Israeli recalcitrance.

From time to time some U.S. and world media report on differences in viewpoints between the United States and Israel regarding a settlement in the region because of Israel's intransigent and extremist positions. At times, Yitzhaq Shamir does not even refrain from leveling severe criticism—which is considered an insult—at the U.S. Government because of remarks or positions expressed by the United States that are not to the liking of Israeli officials. The recent incident was Shamir's rejection of the appeal made by U.S. President Bush to the Israeli Government to cooperate with the UN mission, which is formed to investigate the massacre of al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem.

However, whatever the magnitude and type of these differences being talked about, the concrete reality does not give any impression that these differences—if there are any—have affected the material link, which is the linchpin of U.S.-Israeli relations. Needless to say is that, had it not been for U.S. military, material, economic, political, and diplomatic assistance, Israel would not have been able to implement the projects which aim at seeking armaments and at adopting the policy of aggression, occupation, and regional expansion.

Recently, reports have poured forth about a series of U.S. positions which confirm that the U.S. Administration is still continuing to expand various forms of aid, especially military assistance, to the rulers of Israel. This would encourage them to pursue the policy of constant, continuing aggression on the Palestinian Arab people and to press ahead with the policy of occupation, annexation, and challenge to UN resolutions.

If we add to all of this what is already known about the rulers of Israel possessing—one way or another—the mass-destruction weapons, we find that this is a contradiction between U.S. talk about advancing the peace process in the region and implementing UN resolutions on the one hand, and the concrete, physical practice of U.S. policy in the Middle East on the other. In the light of this contradiction, how can there be any credibility for U.S. pronouncements on peace in the region, a peaceful settlement, and implementation of UN resolutions at the time when the military and material support for Israel is continuing and increasing noticeably?

Perhaps this recent increase in military support for Israel poses a persistent question whether Washington is trying to employ the tense situation in the Gulf deliberately to peddle these military deals to Israel and enhance its war arsenal with more weapons and ammunition.

This query leads to another—that is, whether the United States is shuffling the deck, thus persisting in deflecting Arab and world attention towards what is happening in the Gulf so as to conceal the serious, malicious intentions harbored by Israel, the United States, and some other Western countries against the Arab nation.

The Arabs cannot, and should not, be deceived by this Israeli- U.S. game; in fact, it should be an added motive for their awakening and awareness of this danger so that the serious situation in the Gulf will not distract us from the bigger, more serious danger being premeditated against us.

In fact, the Arabs are asked today—as the responsible Syrian source asserted in his statement yesterday—to examine the reality of the situation around them so as to constantly pinpoint the directions of danger, so that they will not be oblivious or deceived, and so as to decide on the correct response to these dangers.

Information Ministry Bans LE POINT

JN2510180790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 25 Oct (SANA)—The Ministry of Information made a decision today banning the rightist French magazine LE POINT from Syria because the magazine has been propagating a seditious campaign against Syria and its pan-Arab role, making up reports, and publishing mendacious rumors and tendentious articles which lack objectivity and respect for the proper conduct of journalism.

Afghanistan

Protest Note Handed to Pakistani Envoy

LD2510125690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The Information and Publication Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today reported that the charge d'affairs of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned at 1530 today to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the following strong protest note from the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was handed over to him by the director of the first political section:

According to accurate information, two Pakistani citizens, Raziq Husynshah, son of Muhammad Yusuf Shah, and Salim Akhtar, son of Abdul Ghani, were engaged in subversive and provocative activities against the national interests of the Republic of Afghanistan around Khowst Province. Both were captured red-handed by the security forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to a statement made by the accused, the military authorities of Pakistan commissioned and dispatched these two spies to the territory of Afghansitan for subversive and provocative activities, in cooperation with extremist opposition groups.

Car Bomb Explodes Near Najibullah Palace

BK2610002690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1811 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 25 (AFP)—A powerful car bomb exploded in a busy commercial area here late Thursday, wounding scores of people and causing extensive damage to several buildings, witnesses and officials said.

The explosive device planted inside a Volkswagen car went off in the heart of the capital city, outside President Najibullah's palace complex and the main international telecommunication centre.

A government spokesman said at least six people were seriously wounded.

Witnesses said at least two other cars were wrecked and windo s of two four-storeyed buildings shattered after the blast.

Soldiers cordoned off the area soon after and armoured personnel carriers rolled out from nearby military installations to take up positions outside vulnerable government buildings.

Residents also saw more soldiers pouring out into the streets as some of them helped by militia men searched vehicles entering the city.

It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the attack which came hours after a government spokesman declared that a major mujahidin guerrilla onslaught on Kabul and at least five other cities had been thwarted.

Diplomats here said the mujahidin were likely to carry out sabotage from inside the capital after their October 9 push on Kabul failed with government forces hitting back hard with heavy artillery and aerial attacks.

The mujahidin are waging a 12-year war against the Soviet-backed Kabul regime, which has left more than a million people dead so far.

Thursday's blast was the worst of its kind in Kabul since the January 31 car bomb explosion in which at least five people died and over 100 were seriously wounded.

There had been a similar attack in Kabul on July 15 last year, killing 19 people and injuring 56 more.

Government Security Alert

BK2610082790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0816 GMT 26 Oct 90

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpt] Kabul, Oct 26 (AFP)—The Kabul government sounded a maximum security alert after a powerful car bomb blast in the Afghan capital blamed on the resistance triggered fears of more sabotage, officials and diplomats said Friday.

The explosion Thursday near a prominent landmark, Pushtunistan Square in downtown Kabul, ended a spell of relative safety in the city centre where the presidential palace complex and most bazaars are located.

At least six people were seriously wounded in the attack, which came hours after an official spokesman declared that a major mujahidin resistance onslaught on Kabul and five other cities had been repulsed.

Mujahidin guerrilla rockets fired from a distance of about 20 to 30 kilometres (12 to 18 miles) have fallen short of the Kabul city centre for almost a year now, making the area relatively safer.

Diplomats here said Thursday's attack showed the mujahidin were able to infiltrate the city despite a tight security cordon around Kabul and they feared more bomb attacks in crowded public places. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Says Troops Retake Qalat Posts

BK2510144090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 25 (AFP)—Afghan troops recaptured two security posts overrun by the mujahidin resistance in southeastern Afghanistan as fighting across the country drew to a seasonal end, a government spokesman said Thursday.

Government fo.ces took the two posts about four kilometres (2.5 miles) outside Qalat, the capital of the strategically important Zabol Province, in the last two days, Spokesman Humayun Mukammel said.

He said the government had been able to stall a major mujahidin onslaught to seize the Afghan capital, Kabul, and at least five other unnamed key cities and towns in the past four weeks.

A major mujahidin assault to overrun Kabul on October 9 failed after government forces hit back with rockets, heavy artillery and air strikes, Mr. Mukammel said, adding that fighting around Kabul had already died down.

However, the guerrillas ended a two-week lull in shelling Kabul by firing at last six rockets into the city late Wednesday, he said.

He said two people died and six more were seriously wounded in the shelling, which affected the northern and northeastern parts of Kabul.

Diplomatic sources here said the rockets came from the direction of Chakadara, north of the city.

The government has been carrying out anti-guerrilla operations in Chakadara for the past four weeks.

Both government officials and diplomats said activities of the mujahidin guerrillas would slow down with the onset of winter in the coming weeks.

Residents here have reported having noticed the first fall of snow on the hills around Kabul.

However, in the warmer southern parts of Afghanistan sporadic fighting could still continue till mid-November, officials said.

They said troops in Qalat continued operations to clear a main highway of guerrilla bunkers, foxholes and mines.

The government has not given precise casualties in countering the stepped up mujahidin attacks in the past one month, but a top general has put guerrilla losses at some 1,000 killed, wounded or captured.

More than a million people have died during the 12 years of civil war between the mujahidin fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah and government troops.

Mujahidin Shoot Down Kabul Transport Plane

BK2510114390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have gunned down the Kabul regime transport plane at Baba Sahrai Fort near Khowst. The plane was hit by surface-to-air missile. The pilot and the crew were killed on the spot.

Armed Forces Attack Zabol Rebel Arms Depots

LD2510180790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Retaliating to firing by the extremists, units and subunits of the armed forces stationed in Zabol Province inflicted crushing blows on enemy gathering places and trenches, imposing heavy losses of life.

BAKHTAR's military section reported that, as a result of these blows, 36 extremists, including Mola Ali, a ringleader; nine mercenary Wahhabis; and two Pakistani militarists were taken out of the battle ranks. Two reactif [rocket missile] sets, two ZK-1s, three mortars, two vehicles carrying weapons and ammunition, and two enemy ammunition depots were set on fire and destroyed.

The units and subunits of the armed forces stationed in this province are successfully discharging their patriotic duties with high morale and patriotic feelings, and they are ready to repulse every probable attack by the enemy.

Kabol Province Mopping-up Operations Continue

LD2510162290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The units and companies of the General Command of Kabul Garrison carried out mopping-up operations yesterday in the north of Kabol Province. The BIA military section reports that Bandi Khana, Shorab, Katachah and Sangab villages are now clear of extremists. Ten extremists were crushed and one man was captured with his weapons. Eleven U.S.-made Sakr-type surface-to-surface missiles, 10 [words indistinct] shells, 150 rocket launcher shells, 150 antipersonnel mines, eight crates of mortar ammunition, 14 antivehicle mines, 10 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition, one (Mesael) detonator, 20 pen-type mines, four BM-1 shells, a food and clothing depot, and a quantity of antigovernment leaflets were also seized. Eleven extremist corpses were found during the mopping-up operations. Ten enemy caves and hideouts were destroyed. The mopping-up operation is continuing, and the personnel of the units and sub-units, with high combat morale and feelings of patriotism, are successfully continuing their advances in this area.

Missiles Purchased From Armed Opposition

LD2510183190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Five Strella-type surface-to-air missiles, (?70) Sakr-20 type U.S. made surface-to-surface missiles, and 28 Sakr-30 type missiles were purchased today by the Department of State Security from the opposition armed groups in the surroundings of Lowgar Province.

The military section of the BIA reports that the purchase price of these missiles was paid to the opposite side in accordance with the decree.

India

Difficult Oil Situation Pending Due to Gulf

BK2610063790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The growth in demand for petroleum products has come down significantly since June following the government's steps to reduce oil consumption. The demand growth rate for petrol decreased from 15.3 percent during April-September last year to 7.1 percent during the same period this year. For diesel, the growth rate came down from 13.6 percent last year to 5.1 percent this year. There is a 2.7 percent reduction in the growth rate of petroleum products as a whole. This was stated by the petroleum and chemicals ministers, Mr. Gurupadaswamy, while addressing the parliamentary consultative committee attached to his ministry in New Delhi. He said the country is facing a difficult situation on the oil front following the Gulf crisis.

Gas Reserves Found in Andhra Pradesh

BK2510115290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The Oil and Natural Gas Commission—ONGC—has struck gas at a new well at Manipalli in Andhra Pradesh. The well situated at Razole Island Block in East Godavari District is yielding over 185,000 cubic meters of gas per day. It is also producing 65 barrels of condensed material.

Security Along Kashmir Border Tightened

BK2610090690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security arrangements along the line of actual control has been tightened to foil any attempt by Pakistani infiltratiors to enter the country. Talking to newsmen in Srinagar this morning, the director general of state police, Mr. J.N. Saxena, said that Pakistan may try to push armed militants into the valley before it started snowing. Mr. Saxena said that the state police and security agencies are fully prepared to thwart such attempts. The police chief said militants in the Kashmir Valley were under pressure, but the lull in the situation should not be taken to mean that everything is over.

Congress-I To Vote Against Singh 7 Nov

BK2510145690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The Congress-I says it will vote against the V.P. Singh government when the Lok Sabha meets for the special session on the 7th of next month. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the Congress-I will not abstain from voting under any circumstances. He said that his party wants the V.P. Singh government to go for its various failures and alliance with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. He disclosed that the Congress-I has already given notice for a motion of no confidence.

Asked whether the Congress-I will stake its claim to form the government if the present one is voted out, Mr. Gadgil said his party expects to be called to form the government if the National Front is unable to elect a new leader.

BJP Ministers in Gujarat Quit Coalition

BK2610085090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] In Gujarat, all the 12 Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] ministers have resigned from the BJP-Janata Dal coalition. The governor, Mr. Mahipal Singh Shastri, has accepted the resignations on the advice of the chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel. Earlier, the delegation of the BJP ministers called on Mr. Patel at his office in Gandhinagar today and tendered their resignations as desired by him. Later, Mr. Patel called on the governor and handed over all the resignations for acceptance. Mr. Patel has requested the governor to convene the assembly session to prove his majority on the floor of the house. At present, the Janata Dal has 70 members, BJP 67, Congress-I 32, and 12 independents; one seat is vacant.

Janata Dal Opposes 'Snap Poll;' Will Participate

BK2510130690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The Janata Dal says it is not in favor of inflicting a snap poll on the country. The party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, told newsmen in New Delhi that if it takes place, no political party will shy away from it. Replying to questions, he said the charges that his party is indulging in horse trading to save the National Front government are baseless. On the Rajasthan and Gujarat state units of the party, Mr. Reddy said the state leaders had detailed talks with the party president on their links with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. No decision has been taken so far, he added.

Devi Lal Opposes Janata Dal Leadership Change

BK2510154090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The former deputy prime minister and senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Devi Lal, has expressed confidence that the National Front government will provide its majority in parliament on the 7th of next month. Addressing newsmen, he said no party wants midterm elections now. In reply to a question, he said he is not in favor of any change in leadership of the party.

Janata Dal, BJP End Coalitions in Two States

BK2510160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The Janata Dal today decided to withdraw support to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-led coalition government in Rajasthan. The party has also directed the Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, to seek resignation of all the BJP ministers from his ministry. The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, told newsmen tonight that the decision on the two states has been taken in view of the withdrawal of the BJP support to the National Front government on the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi [disputed shrine] issue.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has decided to withdraw its support to the Janata Dal-led coalition government in Gujarat. The general secretary of the party, Mr. J.P. Mathur, said in New Delhi today that the BJP ministers in the state will be asked to immediately resign. He also asked the Janata Dal ministers in Rajasthan to quit the state government.

BJP To Continue Ayodhya Temple Building Plan

BK2510131490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] says it is going ahead with its program of kar seva [voluntary community service to build a temple] at Ayodhya. A party [press] release in New Delhi said that while Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee will lead the group on the 30th, other leaders, including Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, and Mrs Vijayraje Scindia, will be leading separate groups to Ayodhya over the next few days.

Karnataka Chief Wins Assembly Vote of Confidence

BK2510161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The Karnataka Congress-I chief minister, Mr. S. Bangarappa, has won the vote of confidence in the state legislative assembly in Bangalore. When the motion was put to the vote today, the opposition members, except the Indian Union Muslim League and the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] boycotted the proceedings. All other members present at the time of voting overwhelmingly expressed their confidence in the Council of Ministers headed by Mr. Bangarappa.

Supreme Court Begins Antiquota Petition Hearing

BK2510132390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court presided over by the chief justice, Mr. Ranganatha Mishra, today began hearing on 42 petitions against the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations for reservation of jobs for socially and educationally backward classes. Declining a plea that the court should issue a notice to the political parties, the chief justice, Mr. Mishra, said political parties will decide themselves whether or not to participate in the court proceedings.

The government, in an affidavit filed in the court, has maintained that it has fulfilled its constitutional responsibility by deciding in favor of reservations for backward classes. It also contended that caste is not the only factor in providing reservation for the backward classes. The petitioners' argument was that the reservation is discriminatory. It would reinforce casteism which is against the spirit of our Constitution. Our correspondent says that a large number of legal luminaries are to advance their arguments in the case and the hearing is likely to continue for many days.

Singh Condemns Violence; Secularism at Stake

BK2510163290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister has appealed to the people to help the government in maintaining peace and harmony among all sections. Expressing his anguish over the loss of innocent lives in different parts of the country during the bundh [strike] yesterday, he said the government is determined to protect the life and property of the people.

In a special message, he said that he is in touch with the concerned chief ministers and has told them to take all necessary measures to maintain law and order. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said that he is duty-bound to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law.

He said no one is against the construction of the Sri Ram Temple in Ayodhya, but the issue has to be settled in an amicable manner. The loss of innocent lives has put a question mark and everyone should search his soul to find an answer. He said he asked for more time to find a solution to the problem—not to save the government but to save the people from bloodshed. The prime minister said:

[Begin Singh recording] Our worst fears are being turned into reality before our eyes. Ask youselves. Does your religion sanction the shedding of human blood? Does any religion condone, let alone encourage, the taking of human lives? You know the answer as well as I do. The answer is no. I ask you to reassure your neighbors and protect them against those who wish to do them harm. I ask you, above all, to understand what the government is doing. Please help the administration, do not hinder its efforts; advise it and show how it can achieve its task. Today, India's most basic values are being tested. The coming days will decide whether we will be a secular state where all religions are respected, all men enjoy equal rights, and all walk with their heads held high. [end recording]

The prime minister has said that he is prepared to go it alone when it comes to fighting for a cause. He was answering a query from newsmen in New Delhi this evening on what his plans are following the withdrawal

of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] support to his government. Mr. Singh said that there is no numbers game when one fights for a cause.

Death Toll in Rajasthan Rioting Reaches 40

BK2510164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The death toll in the riot-affected areas of Jaipur in Rajasthan has gone up to 40. Violent incidents continued today also in which four persons were killed. According to the district collector, one RAC [Rajasthan Armed Constabulary] jawan [soldier] was killed in cross firing and another person was stabbed to death. Two persons died in police firing. Over 110 persons were also injured in the two-day violence. The situation is now stated to be under control. About 250 people have been rounded up so far. The curfew continued in the walled city and the Shastrinagar area. In Beawar, the Army staged a flag march today. In Jodhpur, police had to open fire to disperse violent mobs in which eight persons were injured. One of them later died in the hospital.

Roundup on Violent Incidents in Several States

BK2510102190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] An agency report, quoting official sources, says that in Rajasthan the death toll in yesterday's violence and police firing in Jaipur City has risen to 34. The condition of seven others is said to be serious. The situation in curfew-bound areas is reported to be tense but under control. The state chief minister, Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, visited the trouble-torn areas late last night.

In Gujarat, the situation in Ahmedabad and other parts of the state is reported to be peaceful today. However, indefinite curfew in Jamnagar and Bhisa continues as a precautionary measure.

In Karnataka, a 48-hour curfew has been clamped on Hubli City since this morning following violent incidents. Several stabbing cases were reported from the city last night. One person succumbed to injuries.

In West Bengal, at least two persons were reported killed when police opened fire to disperse two clashing groups in Pilkhana area of Howrah District last night. According to an agency report, the clash took place between two armed groups in which 15 persons were injured and a few shops were damaged.

In Assam, curfew continues in Halakandi Town of Doranth Valley. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the district so far.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Army staged a flag march today in Kanpur City as a precautionary measure.

Iran

Commentary Criticizes King Fahd Kuwait Statement

LD2510140190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Text] Recently, Saudi Arabian King Fahd, after announcing that Saddam Husayn, Iraq's president, after eight years of war with Iran, once again returned to the Algiers Agreement and relinquished part of Iraq's territory to Iran, again called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Fahd's call for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is a logical request, and Iran and most countries of the world unanimously believe that the best solution for the Persian Gulf crisis, avoiding a disaster whose consequences cannot be predicted, is Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. Certainly, wisdom and logic dictate that if Iraq made a mistake in attacking Iran, and eventually after eight years of war realized its mistake and rectified it, the same also applies to Kuwait, and it is appropriate that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and remove the opportunity for military occupation of this Muslim region and the further plunder of its oil resources by the West.

Unanimity of view about the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait should not be reinforced by unfounded and possibly fabricated news items, and it is proper that the Saudi authorities take more care in expressing their views. In Fahd's statements, what attracts most attention is his reiteration of Iraq's re-acceptance of the Algiers Agreement after eight years of destructive war and his depicting it as tantamount to relinquishing part of Iraq's territory to Iran. A consideration of the articles of the Algiers Agreement, as well as of the way Iraq reaccepted the agreement after a period of tension and eight years of futile war with Iran, and ultimately Iraq's correcting of its stances and respecting international laws, clearly reveals the baselessness of Fahd's statement about the handing over of Iraqi territory to Iran. As everyone knows, these statements are part of the Saudi Government's propaganda war against Saddam Husyan.

Another issue which it seems crucial to mention is the statement by Saudi King Fahd about the destructive consequences of the eight year Iran-Iraq war and the loss of enormous and unlimited [as heard] resources by the two countries. The destructive consequences of the war are known to everyone, especially to our nation, who witnessed every sorrowful moment of it. However, the sympathies of the Saudi king are astonishing. The Saudi king confessed two months ago that the Arab oil producing countries of the Persian Gulf, during the eight years of the imposed war, helped Iraq with tens of billions of dollars, aid which prepared the ground for the continuation of the destructive war. Fahd's confession that the war was a mistake increases the astonishment, especially because, if the war was a mistake, why did the Saudi Government help fan the flames of the war?

If we presume that the Saudi Government, following the invasion of Kuwait and the threat it posed to Saudi Arabia, have now realized their mistake, why don't they try to redress it and avoid provocative statements which have no merit but to offer excuses?

Commentary Reviews Gulf Developments

LD2510100190 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Recent comments of Saudi Defense Minister Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz concerning the likelihood of ceding a portion of Arab land to another Arab state, though somewhat denied later, have in themselves brought about varied reactions and fresh predictions on the settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis. Initially, this statement left an effect upon the world oil markets, causing a drastic slump in oil price. Prior to this issue there had occured some other developments that have been construed as factors leading to considerable de-escalation of the crisis.

Despite this, America and the West, without speaking much about the possibility of a military operation, stressed that they would not accept any compromise on resolving the crisis and withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. The Saudi defense minister's comment, which in the opinion of the observers, may be indicative of flexibility on the part of Riyadh, and also its readiness to grant certain concessions to Saddam Husayn, in order to resolve the issue, have evoked dissatisfaction of America and some of its European allies. In this latest speech the other day, United States President George Bush, dismissing any sort of compromise with Iraq, had noted: America is not going to allow Iraq to gain any benefit from its invasion of Kuwait.

Also, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in a meeting with the amir of Kuwait yesterday, stressed London's view on unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The British premier, in a move aimed at neutralizing the influence of the Saudi defence minister's statement, said: The Saudi Government stand on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has not changed and Riyadh continues to demand total withdrawal of Iraqi troops. Reaction of American circles to the statement of Sultan Bin-'Abd-al'Aziz should not be ignored, as both the White House spokesman and the United States State Department spokeswoman insisted on checking any misinterpretation of the Saudi defense minister's comments. Unscheduled visit of Husni Mubarak to Saudi Arabia, too, is another evidence of the concern of Cairo and a number of anti-Saddam countries over unusual posturing by Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

In another development, Iraq, in an unanticipated move, has released a limited number of U.S., British, French and other foreign nationals entrapped in Iraq and Kuwait. Such moves have brought about suspicion in

Western news circles that Baghdad, too, has agreed to a peaceful settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Despite this, other Western and news circles believe that Saddam Husayn's decision to free another group of American, British, and French hostages is a ploy aimed at securing a respite, rather than its being a turning point in the ongoing crisis. It appears that Washington is still not sure of these Iraqi measures being an index of its inclination to pull out of Kuwait. Pentagon yesterday denied press reports about withdrawal of part of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait and said that Iraq's military movements shoewed its intention to have a permanent presence in that country. At any rate, this question remains to be answered: What will be (the) next steps of the anti-Iraqi coalition for driving Iraq out of Kuwait? Many of the world circles, however, believe that Saddam will not leave Kuwait until he is faced with a difficult situation.

While the parties involved in the Persian Gulf crisis continue to insist on their own stance, Western political officials with their trips to the states related to this turmoil are trying to find some common viewpoints leading to a peaceful settlement. Some of these countries, including America and Britain, despite refraining from sending their officials to Baghdad, favor to dispatch some politicians who lack any executive positions, hoping that they may prove influential in resolving this crisis.

Recent meetings of the former British Premier Edward Heath with the Iraqi officials, despite all the clamor caused by the British mass media in opposition to his trip to Baghdad, enabled him to secure their consent for the release of over 30 of British hostages.

Presently, in view of the obstacles on the way of a Western military operation against Iraq, Western states on the one hand are seeking by different means to gain the release of their nationals detained in Iraq; and, on the other, Baghdad officials are thinking of finding out such means through which they may use foreign nationals as a political ploy in order to persuade the West not to take any military action.

The main objective of the Baghdad officials in releasing Western nationals is directed at drawing the public opinion in the West to the subject that Iraq is not inclined to have a military confrontation in the Persian Gulf, but that these are the Western governments alone which by bringing their troops into the region are seeking a military clash.

So far in the Persian Gulf crisis, even though the West has made a fervent effort that the Western nationals in Iraq will not cause any obstacle in the way of a subsequent measure, with the decline in political moves and noncoordination among the United Nations Security Council members on the subject of the use of force against Iraq, this issue has once again attracted the attention of the world mass media.

In order to nullify the Iraqis' tactic of exploiting foreign subjects issue, the Americans have tried, contrary to their practice two months ago, to speak less of them in their comments. In this connection, Bush has said that in the event a military operation against Iraq becomes necessary, (the) presence of foreign subjects being kept in sensitive military spots of that country will not prevent the adoption of our [U.S.] decisions.

Indisputably, America is now seeking to aquire Soviet consent to the adoption of severe measures against Iraq. In this regard, Moscow by its cautious posturing is preventing America from taking any unilateral move in the Persian Gulf and is persuading it to act within the framework of the United Nations laws. Despite this, the Americans are optimistic that economic sanctions against Iraq (will) prove effective and (will) cause a serious political unrest there, thus enabling them to inflict a deadly blow leading to their victory.

In the opinion of political analysts, the Americans can be optimistic of this stand until there does not occur a shift in the posture of the Arab states, and even the Western countries in this crisis. [sentence as heard] Otherwise, some complicated programs will lie in wait for them.

Kurdish Groups Say Conditions Precede Civil War

NC2510185890 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 19 Oct 90 p 8

[Report by Macit Gurbuz: "Iran on the Threshold of Civil War"]

[Excerpts] Yuksekova-Hakkari (TERCUMAN)—The struggle waged by opponents of the Iranian regime is assuming new dimensions, and the ongoing armed clashes in the country are signaling the approach of a "civil war."

Teymur Mostafa, Central Committee member of the Kordestan Democratic Party [KDP] of Iran told a TERCUMAN reporter at his camp in Iran that some of the murders committed in Turkey are the work of the Hezbollah militants who take orders from the Iranian secret service SAVAMA. Mostafa said: "Like Iraq, the Iranian regime is a serious threat to peace and stability in the Middle East." [passage omitted]

The opponents of the Iranian regime said that along with the KDP, parties and organizations such as Komeleh, People's Mojahedin [halkin mucahitleri], the Revolutionary Vanguards [devrim onculeri] were waging armed struggle. They noted that after the murder of KDP leader Dr. 'Abdorrahman Qasemlu [in Vienna], the armed struggle waged by the KDP was considerably intensified. They added that "the conditions in Iran are speeding up the arrival of a civil war." [passage omitted]

Paper Views Majles, Palestine, Gulf Crisis

LD2510111190 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRAN—A morning daily Thursday regretted the present atmosphere prevailing over the Majlis (parliament) and noted that Majlis sessions lately instead of uniting people were sowing discord among the public.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its weekly political analysis commented on three separate subjects: recent debates in the Majlis, the Palestinian uprising and the Persian Gulf crisis. On the Majlis debate, the paper underlined importance of the body in defending the country, the revolution and Islam and strengthening unity and solidarity of the masses.

"There is no objection about criticism, but the way it is being raised", said the article adding: "Values, principles and interests of the revolution and the country must be respected." It also warned those who through their "poisonous provocations fan the flames" either in the Majlis, in the press or elsewhere, to reconsider their "attitude".

As for the Palestinian uprising, the daily wrote that the oppressed Palestinians are determined to retaliate the Zionist crimes. Naturally, it added, the Zionists will intensify their atrocities, but ultimately they will sustain final blows and become further vulnerable.

In its third and last analysis the paper commented on recent developments in the Persian Gulf region and noted that a promise given to Iraq by the Saudi defence minister has given a new direction to the developments. The Saudi minister had been quoted as saying that Kuwait was ready to give territorial concessions to Iraq, which was later denied. However it was received positively by Iraq.

However, the daily noted "the Arab reactionaries are good in submission and being blackmailed, whether it is Israel, America or the Baghdad regime." Meanwhile, Iraq by resorting to various methods has created rifts among the intervening countries.

Influential figures of Western countries in order to release their nationals deem it wise to pay a visit to Baghdad and even decorate the "war-mongering symbol" with a peace medal or even pledge not to partake in a possible attack against Iraq, it added. This will finally lead to the disgrace of all those playing this "wretched game", especially the U.S. and "rootless Arab Kings", concluded the daily.

*Majles Reacts to Severe Shortage of Medication

91AS0064J London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] Shortages of medicine, medical equipment, and treatment supplies become more extensive daily, and despite the propaganda by the Islamic regime's treatment and health care officials, not only are some important drugs not to be found in the hospitals, clinics, and treatment centers, it is even practically impossible to find these kinds of drugs on the black market. Apparently these malfunctions have caused drug dealers and profiteers to import impure drugs and sell them to buyers at several times their true price. As the regrettable situation with drugs has continued in Tehran and other municipalities, the general state of health care, treatment, and the condition of government and even private clinics and hospitals has also gotten worse daily. Meanwhile, the deprived and ailing residents of the small cities and villages are in even worse circumstances than other ailing persons and people in need of drugs and treatment.

Based on reports in the Tehran press, despite the severe shortage of medicine at the treatment centers and pharmacies, officials of the Islamic regime recently announced that officials succeeded in confiscating significant quantities of impure vaccines, and the regime's Ministry of Health and Treatment also ordered that the impure vaccines be discarded.

Reports of the confiscation of the impure vaccines, as well as the continuation of the nation's regrettable health care and treatment situation, have also prompted Majles deputies to react. Some of them have criticized the nation's health care and treatment officials during Majles meetings. Early last week in a speech to the Majles, Borujerd Deputy Mohammad Karim Moruji blamed the Ministry of Health and Treatment for the current health care malfunctions, and he called upon the officials of this ministry to solve the problems in the Province of Lorestan. In his speech, the deputy said: "I ask the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education to deal with the regrettable health care and treatment situation in the Province of Lorestan, which is in this respect the nation's 22nd province, to follow up on impure vaccines, and to deal with cases of incompetence."

The Borujerd deputy added: "It is regrettable that public funds are being wasted this way while our people are scrounging for syringes, deprived Nurabad lacks a hospital, and a hospital was begun but never finished 20 years ago for Alshotor, Paladbakhtar, Azna, and Kuhdasht, for about 1,500 people in Borujerd there is not even one standard hospital bed, and Khorramabad and Aligudarz are no less deprived."

*Imports From West Europe, Japan Up

91AS0064H London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] Last year (1989) the Islamic Republic bought a total of $5.9 billion in goods and materials from member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Based on statistics published by the foreign trade department of this organization, in 1989 the Islamic Republic ranked third among nations of the Persian Gulf after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab

Emirates in terms of the value of its imports from the Western industrial nations and Japan. The statistical report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) says that last year the Federal Republic of Germany, with exports to the Islamic Republic valued at $1.34 billion in goods and materials, made this nation the largest market for its goods in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia.

On the list of OECD's member nations, after the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan was mentioned as the largest exporter of goods to the Islamic Republic.

Statistical sources gave about $922 million as the value of Japan's exports to the Islamic Republic last year, and they noted that Japanese officials are seeking, by increasing their exports to Iran, to become this year the largest procurer of that nation's needs for industrial goods and food. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's foreign trade statistics show that last year Turkey, Italy, England, and France were the biggest sellers of goods to the Islamic Republic among the organization's remaining members. Based on the same report, last year Italy exported $588 million, England $421 million, and France $345 million in goods and materials to the Islamic Republic. The statistical report from this organization also states that despite the Islamic Republic's propaganda concerning cutting relations with the United States of America, last year this country exported goods valued at $60 million to the Islamic Republic.

An expert in international commerce announced that in general last year OECD's member nations increased their exports to the Islamic Republic. This expert gave 4.9 percent as the approximate level by which these nations increased their exports to Iran, compared to the year 1988.

The analyst of international commercial affairs for the London publication MIDDLE EAST COMMERCIAL COMMITTEE believes that this year, in view of the treaty signed between Rome and Tehran to increase commercial exchanges, Italy will increase the value of its exports to Iran by a significant percentage. Increasing the value of its exports to the Islamic Republic by 56.5 percent over the year 1988, Italy replaced England as one of Iran's main trading partners.

*Increase Reported in Imports From UK

91AS0064I London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] For the first time since 1984. England increased its exports to the Islamic Republic. British experts on foreign trade affairs gave the increase in the amount of grain exported to the Islamic Republic as the main reason for the increase in this nation's exports to the Islamic Republic. Based on a report in London's MIDDLE EAST COMMERCIAL COMMITTEE, while last year England exported only various grains valued at /P2.5 million to the Islamic Republic, this year this figure increased to about /P50 million. This publication said the reason for the increase in grain exports to Iran is efforts made by officials of the Islamic Republic to procure the food needs of the people. Statistics published by English trade officials state that this country has now increased its exports of iron and industrial steel to Iran. On the other hand, it was announced that there has been a decrease in the Islamic Republic's purchase of tools, transportation equipment, and machinery. English statistical sources gave the added value of this nation's exports to the Islamic Republic as 3.8 percent. The same sources announced that last year the Islamic Republic ranked seventh among nations of the Middle East in the value of its purchases from England.

*Private Sector To Import Vehicle Spare Parts

91AS0064K London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] In a recent session, the Islamic Republic's Supreme Economic Council announced that imports of spare parts for light and heavy vehicles would be unrestricted with the use of foreign exchange obtained from the export of non-petroleum goods (letter of deposit). With the lifting of restrictions on imports of these goods, the Islamic Republic has taken another step towards opening its doors to imports, and it is thus hoped that shortages caused by the prohibition in the import of spare parts for automobiles, trucks, and other vehicles will gradually disappear. Shari'atmadar, the Islamic Republic's acting minister of commerce, gave a press conference announcing the Supreme Economic Council's latest decision, and called it a very useful step to encourage merchants to export traditional goods. He added that this will mean that those exporting non-petroleum goods will be able to meet primary needs using their foreign exchange revenues. The Islamic Republic's acting minister of commerce told correspondents that the Supreme Economic Council's latest decision does not violate the government's policy on imports of automobile tires and parts, and that the appropriate organizations will continue to import their spare parts and tires as before, and distribute them among consumers.

*Transport, Passenger Activities Increase

91AS0064G London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] While the Islamic Republic Shipping Company unloaded a total of 12.1 million tons of freight in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], the amount of freight unloaded by this company in the first five months of the current year [21 March-22 August 1990] reached 5.3 million tons. Based on statistics published by officials of the Islamic Republic Shipping Company, in the first five months of the current year (1369) about 6.4 million tons of freight were loaded and carried, an increase of about 15 percent over the same period last year. An analysis of the figures published by the company shows that about 70 percent has been added to the freight unloading ability of the ships of the Islamic

Republic Shipping Company in the first five months of the current year compared to the same period last year.

Mohammad Hoseyn Dachmer, acting director of the Islamic Republic Shipping Company, told correspondents that this company now has 97 ships.

A report from southern Iran states that in the past few months maritime voyages by residents of the Persian Gulf to Islands belonging to Iran as well as to the Arab kingdoms of this region have increased, and it is expected that as soon as the current crisis ends in the Persian Gulf and peace returns to the countries of this region, there will be more maritime traffic between the ports of Iran and the Arab kingdoms of the Persian Gulf.

Ahmad Makhmali, acting director of the Val-Fajr-Eight Shipping Company, recently announced that during the year 1368, passenger liners belonging to this company transported 184,000 passengers in the coastal waters of Iran and along the maritime routes of the Persian Gulf. Noting that the number of passengers carried by this company's ships in the first five months of the current year was about 70,000, the official said that maritime voyages in this area have seen a striking increase, and that with the purchase of five new ships the activities of this company will be expanding in the coming years. The acting director of this company told correspondents that this company now has nine docks available for commercial activity at Bandar-e 'Abbas, Bushehr, Qeshm, Laran, Hormoz, Lark, Abu Musa, and Kish.

*Tehran To Obtain Electric Bus Line

91AS0064L London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 91 p 4

[Text] Because it will take several years to build the metro in Tehran and put it into operation, and even after it goes into operation it will solve only a small part of Tehran's traffic problem, every effort will be made so that early next year at least one electric bus line with a high-volume capacity will be started.

The above was announced recently by the mayor of Tehran to a gathering of university people and reporters. He discussed the capital's urban problems and the inability of the mayor's office to solve them. He said: The Tehran Mayor's Office is a huge complex; unfortunately, due to the inattention to its organization long ago, it has been even less possible to remove its specialist and skilled forces than for the other organizations and executive groups.

The mayor of Tehran added: Unfortunately, for such an extensive complex, a separate line has not been provided in the nation's foreign exchange credits. In part of his speech, the official said: There are now about 800,000 motorcycles in Tehran, and this is itself a serious factor in pollution.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

King Sets 9 Nov Deadline for New Constitution

BK2610003590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1854 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 25 (AFP)—As hundreds of pro-leftist demonstrators marched in the streets here Thursday the state radio announced the king would promulgate the new constitution on November 9.

Quoting a note from King Birendra's principal press secretariat the radio said the announcement had been made for the general promulgation of the new constitution which is expected to include constitutional monarchy, sovereignty of the people, a multi-party system of government and full human rights.

Sources close to the prime minister's office said the senior leader of the Nepali congress, Ganesh Man Singh, its general secretary Girija Prasad Koirala and Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai held lenghty talks with the king Wednesday at the Royal Palace to finalize the draft of the constitution.

Meanwhile in a protest against amendments submitted on October 21 by the Royal Palace to the Council of Ministers, separate demonstrations were held in Banepa, Pokhara, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu Wednesday and Thursday to demand early promulgation of the new constitution.

The promulgation of the draft, promised last week by the king, has been delayed due to the last minute amendments which were rejected by the cabinet as being undemocratic.

But in a meeting late Tuesday, Mr. Bhattarai told the king that his cabinet agreed to form a state council standing committee headed by a royal appointee.

Mr. Bhattarai said however that the provision for the standing committee would not change the democratic nature of the constitution since it cannot function as a parallel body to the Council of Ministers, or cabinet.

Late Thursday several hundred pro-leftists staged a demonstration carrying flaming torches round the city demanding the earliest possible promulgation of the new constitution.

Riot police were deployed but no incidents were reported.

Meanwhile the Nepali Congress has issued a statement saying it appreciated the announcement of the November 9 promulgation, adding it hoped the new constitution would be the most acceptable constitution ever announced in Nepal.

Nepali Congress Spokesman Basu Risal said "the new constitution has been the most discussed document and keen interest shown by the people" was "a guarantee that it will work."

"The Nepali Congress hoped that the people will not only wholeheartedly support it, but also will ever remain vigilant on it working and widely participate in the democratic process as always," he added.

Pakistan

Election Commission Notes Election Results

BK2510165790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] has emerged as the largest single alliance in the general elections. With unofficial results of 206 National Assembly seats out of 207 declared by the Election Commission, it has captured 105 seats. Polling was not held in constituency NA-91 Shakargarh because of the assassination of Mr. Mohammad Idris Taj, an IJI candidate. The People's Democratic Alliance has secured 45 seats. Among other parties, Hak Parast group has won 15, Awami National Party six, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam [JUI] Fazlur Rahman Group six, Jamiat-i- Ulema-i-Pakistan [JUP] Noorani Group three, Jamhoori Watan Party 2, Pakistan National Party 2, and Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party 1. Independents got 21 seats.

Results of [10] minority seats will be announced in a day or two. Election Commission sources said in Islamabad today as the 10 constituencies are spread over the entire country, it will take some time to collect the results.

There were several surprising results and upsets in the general elections. The Awami National Party Chief, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, has lost in Charsadda and Pakistan Democratic Party Chief Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan lost in both the constituencies of Muzaffargarh-2 and Muzzafargarh-3. The JUP Noorani Group chief, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, also lost in both constituencies in Multan-3 and Karachi South-2. The speaker of the dissolved National Assembly of the People's Democratic Alliance lost in Lahore-9, and JUI secretary general, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, in Na-18 Dera Ismail Khan. The NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] PPP chief, Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, has been defeated at the polls. The information minister, Syeda Abida Hussain; the SNF [Sindh National Front] convener, Mr Mumtaz Bhutto; and the former law minister, Abdul Hafiz Pirzada, have lost in the elections. PPP co-chairperson Ms. Benazir Bhutto has lost in the Peshawar constituency, but won in Larkana. Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi captured both the seats which he was contesting. The IJI chief, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, also won both the Sargodha and Lahore seats. The former prime minister and president of the Pakistan Muslim League, Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo, of IJI has won from NA-62 Faysalabad and Thar Parkar.

Election Observers Report 'Serious' Problems

BK2610114790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1136 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Oct 26 (AFP)—A team of international observers announced Friday that they had credible reports of serious problems affecting Pakistan's general elections Wednesday but that the problems did not significantly alter the outcome of the polls.

The 40-member delegation from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), which drew members from 17 countries, said that its report was preliminary.

"The delegation does not believe that the... problems significantly altered the outcome of the elections," delegation coleader Vahit Halefoglu said.

The delegation's preliminary report said that the elections at the local level were generally "open, orderly and well administered."

Ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had charged "massive countrywide rigging" when she conceded defeat Wednesday.

The team said it had "credible reports of several specific and serious problems," including the killing of a candidate, party workers and other civilians.

It also said it had documented attacks by armed men on polling officials, agents and voters and the kidnapping and arrest of party workers.

It also said it had heard complaints of bias in the electronic media and concluded that Pakistani television coverage of the campaign was "not balanced."

The delegation also said its members had received information of an "election cell" in a provincial chief minister's secretariat and requested progressive reports of elections results "in apparent violation of published election rules."

"As of today the delegation has received no evidence that would allow us to substantiate allegations concerning irregular vote totals," the statement said.

In no place did the official statement of the observers mention the names of the parties believed responsible for the election irregularities.

The delegation concluded its statement by urging Pakistan's Election Commission and other authorities to act on all allegations tendered to them.

Jatoi on New Government, U.S. Aid Stoppage

BK2510164290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the prime minister, has said Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [Islamic Democraric Alliance] has won a clear majority with 105 seats in the new National Assembly and it is in a position to form a

stable government. Addressing a crowded news conference in Islamabad today, he asked the Pakistan People's Party to accept the people's verdict with good grace as a democratic party. He said the present elections outcome have brought about a vital and basic change as compared to the 1988 elections because in the last elctions no political party secured a clear majority.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that the election's outcome has vindicated the president's 6 August step [dissolving the National Assembly] which was based on facts and concrete reasons. The people have given massive support to the president's action. The prime minister categorically assured that there was no rigging in the elections.

Referring the allegations of rigging levelled by the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] leaders, the prime minister said this is a result of the PPP's double standard of assessing election results. They have started levelling these allegations to cover up their defeat when they are not in a position to form a government. They had also alleged that the accountability was meant to postpone elections and disqualify many people. The co-chairperson of the PPP had all along tried to create an impression that the elections would be rigged. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that similar allegations were also levelled during the 1988 elections. He pointed out that the PPP co-chairperson levelled similar accusations in 1988 even after her party emerged as the largest group.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that one proof that the elections were fair is that the many stalwarts within the Islamic Democratic Alliance and outside also lost in the elections. He stated that he himself had lost in the 1988 elections from his own constituency. Even though it was surprising, he did not register any such protest. He said that in 1988 Ms. Benazir Bhutto secured the vote out of sympathy for her late father and not because of her record. She lost an opportunity thus provided through severe corruption, blatant interference in provincial affairs, violation of the Constitution, and incompetence during her two years' rule. The prime minister said it was PPP workers who tried to disrupt the election process. He said eight workers of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, including a candidate, were killed, and he has received reports that PPP workers captured polling stations in some areas in Sindh.

The prime minister commended the wisdom and experience of the president in setting up a record of holding both 1988 and 1990 elections in a free and fair manner. He said he expects that the PPP leaders will accept the people's verdict to prove their democratic-mindedness.

Answering a question, he said he hopes that the PPP will not boycott the provincial assembly elections on Saturday [27 October], nor will it disrupt the process. He cautioned that any attempt to disrupt law and order will be sternly dealt with.

The prime minister denied that there is a suggestion to form a national government and said that the Islamic Democratic Alliance itself enjoys a clear majority. He, however, said it will be a good thing to consider forming a broad-based government.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that according to the Constitution the new National Assembly will meet within 30 days to elect a people's leader. Replying to a question as to who will be the prime minister among Islamic democratic Alliance leaders, he said this will be decided by the Islamic Democratic Alliance's parliamentary party.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said now that the National Assembly elections are over and the people have given their mandate, the country should move forward and attention should be given to solve the serious problems faced by the country. He referred to the economic situation due to the gulf situation and stoppage of foreign aid, the regional situation and burden on foreign exchange resources.

The prime minister made it clear that there has been no change in Pakistan's nuclear program compared to last year. In the circumstances, we received the news of stoppage of U.S. aid to our surprise. He, however, said this is not the first time that the U.S. President had not given clarification to the Congress on 1 October. We hope that the U.S. President will give the clarification at an appropriate time.

The prime minister said the election results prove that the people have rejected the PPP leadership and now it is up to the courts to decide on the references filed against PPP leaders. He assured that all actions will be according to law and justice will be done in all cases.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said the PPP chief had hurt national interests through propaganda in foreign countries and it is for the future government to take note of it.

Nawaz Sharif on Priorities of IJI Government

BK2610051590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Nawaz Sharif, president of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI], has said the establishment of social justice and industrial revolution will be the top priority of the IJI government. Addressing a news conference in Lahore, he said the IJI manifesto will be implemented in letter and spirit. Efforts will be made to accelerate the pace of development, eradicate unemployment, minimize dependence on foreign loans, and to make the country self-reliant. The IJI government will also provide better facilities of education, health and transport to the people and the society will be rid of corruption.

In reply to a question, the IJI president said that the IJI will join hands with all like-minded parties, including the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, to run the government in a cordial atmosphere.

Bhutto Not To Contest Provincial Elections

BK2610031890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Pakistan People's Party Cochairperson Benazir Bhutto has said that the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] will not boycott the provincial assembly elections tomorrow. Talking to newsmen in Karachi last night, she said that the future strategy of the PDA will be determined after the provincial elections.

Kashmir President Urges Pressure on India

BK2610120390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir president, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, has underlined the need for pressurizing India to refrain from shedding the blood of Kashmiris and find a durable and viable settlement of the long-standing Kashmir issue. Addressing a radio news conference in Muzaffarabad today, he said the misleading impression given by India that Kashmir was their integral part had now been dispelled. Paying tributes to the Kashmiri freedom fighters, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir president said that at last India will have to grant Kashmiris their right to self- determination.

A black day is being observed throughout Azad Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow to mark the landing of Indian forces in Srinagar on this day in 1947. It is being observed in response to an appeal made by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir president and the prime minister.

UN Delegate Reaffirms Peaceful Nuclear Use

BK2610130790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has urged the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to assign top priority to development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and help developing countries overcome the energy shortage. Speaking in a debate on the report of the Vienna-based IAEA, the Pakistan delegate, Raja Zafarul Haq, called on the member-states to abide by the United Nations General Assembly's resolution that entitled all states to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful uses.

Raja Zafarul Haq said Pakistan has endeavored to promote an international agreement prohibiting attacks against all nuclear facilities and had concluded an agreement with India in this regard. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitments to nuclear nonproliferation and to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Article Examines Peaceful World Nuclear Plan

BK2610102890 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 90 pp 4, 9

[By Munir Ahmad Suleri]

[Text] Speaking as leader of Pakistan delegation to the 34th Annual General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], Mr. Munir Ahmad Khan, Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC], said that the world had witnessed historic and revolutionary changes affecting relationship between super powers. Confrontation is being replaced by cooperation, opening up new opportunities for development. He welcomed these changes and particularly the steps taken towards winding down of arms race and moving towards nuclear disarmament.

In actual fact, the end of the cold war between the two super powers will augur well for closer North-South relationship on which the future welfare and prosperity of mankind depends. It is high time for IAEA to consider establishment of a nuclear fuel bank as envisaged in its statute. As regards nuclear safety, the leader of Pakistan delegation has strongly supported the Agency's programme. There are no two opinions that large-scale introduction and exploitation of nuclear power will not be possible without assurances of safety and public acceptance of nuclear energy.

Further, the present Gulf crisis has created many problems including a new energy crisis which could perhaps be worse than the 1973 and 1978 crisis. As such the debt-ridden developing countries cannot afford additional financial burden by importing expensive oil for power generation. Moreover, the use of fossil fuel for production of electricity is causing unacceptable environmental damage necessitating measures to restrict its use.

Though Pakistan is not a party to the inequitable Non-Proliferation Treaty, nevertheless, Pakistan's nuclear policy, as enunciated on various occasions strongly supports the establishment of non-discriminatory regime of non-proliferation covering both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. Pakistan's nuclear programme is peaceful and dedicated solely to economic and technical development and aims at bringing the benefits of peaceful applications of nuclear energy to its more than 100 million people.

PAEC is making valuable contribution in various sectors, especially energy, industry, agriculture and health. In a view of the defence needs of the country and the paucity of resources, PAEC has also started some vital work in defence field and one foresees that a number of items which Pakistan is importing at present against exhorbitant rates, will be made in the near future.

Though Pakistan is prepared to any non-proliferation regime in our region which is non-discriminatory. [sentence as published] Pakistan, being a peace-loving country strongly supports the idea of solving the problem of proliferation of nuclear weapons through constructive political dialogue, which addresses the security and development concerns involved. While there is a need for restraint in the application of nuclear power for military explosive purposes, there has already been too much restraint shown by the advanced nuclear states in

making the peaceful benefits for nuclear energy available to the developing countries of the world.

Economically, the most attractive of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is the generation of electricity for the energy starved states like Pakistan. However, this application has been confined almost entirely to advanced countries. There are only 25 nuclear power plants in developing countries with a total generating capacity of about 15,000 megawatts; which is less than 5 percent of the aggregate nuclear installed capacity of the world. If the present trend continues, the entire Third World will have no more than 40,000 MW nuclear energy by the end of this century, which is less than that in a single European country at present.

The proven fossil fuel reserves of most of the developing countries as well as their ability to pay for energy imports is very limited. If they were to consume fossil fuel at the same level as industrialised countries do, carbon dioxide emissions will increase four-fold, leading to extensive pollution and worsening of the greenhouse effect. This imposes a serious constraint on the development of these countries, yet the economically attractive and environmentally better alternative of nuclear power is denied to them.

There are those who perceive in this order of things a new type of technological colonialism involving the transfer of valuable mineral and energy resources from the less developed countries to industrialised countries, without adequate compensation of or the sharing of science and technology necessary for their development. Disparity and awareness of this inequitable treat increase in the less developed countries (LDCs). [sentence as published] This feeling leads to misgivings and doubts about the real nature and intent of the non-proliferation regime and, ultimately, to the repudiation of the current regime. Even though there is no real linkage between the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the development of nuclear power under safeguards, the industrialised countries have chosen to use denial of nuclear power as an instrument for enforcing the non-proliferation regime. The various manifestations of the policy are well known—unilateral abrogation of international agreements, violation of Article IV of the NPT, the Nuclear non-proliferation Act of the United States, and the "London Clubs" nuclear supply guidelines. In this whole exercise the technical and political realities of the 1970s and 1980s, as well as the lessons of history, are ignored. The policy of denial has not been very effective in controlling the spread of any modern technology. Embargoes may serve some economic and political purpose in the short term and introduce delays, but, in the long run, they inevitably prove to be counter-productive by providing the political motivation for countries in sensitive areas to seek nuclear autarky. This lesson, however, does not seem to have ben appreciated even by those countries of the North, which have themselves been victims of such denials at one time or another. The reluctance of industrialised countries to share advanced technologies has unwillingly led to the emergence of new nuclear supplier states.

For example, India's nuclear establishment is the sixth or the seventh largest in the world. Soon after Independence in 1947, she was put on the nuclear path by her first Prime Minister. That course has been consistently pursued by all her successive governments. India has declared that she has acquired nuclear know-how in all fields but has not yet taken a political decision to build a nuclear weapon. When put to test against available evidence this claim does not ring the bell of truth. India's contention that her nuclear programme is not weapon-oriented, is belied by the facts. For India, the option of nuclear ambiguity has, in fact, run its course. Her IRBM [Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile] capability becomes meaningful only if India has a nuclear weapon to deliver.

India, is thus clearly a nuclear weapon state. The neighbours of India would be making an unforgivable error if they do not base their defence planning on this hypothesis. Recently there has been another development in India which Pakistan cannot afford to ignore (more particularly when the threat of a war, possibly a nuclear war, as apprehended by the super-powers and the West imposed by India has not dissipated at all). Prime Minister V.P. Singh's decision to appoint Dr. Raja Ramanna as the Minister of State for Defence and Dr. P.K. Iyengar as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission [AFC] can only be viewed as a subtle signal that India has decided to become a full-fledged nuclear weapons power. It may be recalled that the team of Dr. Ramanna as the then Chairman of AEC, and Dr. Iyengar as the leading scientist, had planned and executed the Pokharan nuclear test in 1974. These appointments can only mean that India has decided to give top priority to its nuclear weapons and missile development programmes.

Pakistan's modest nuclear research programme has been established by her indigenous effort. Her own scientists, technologists and designers have displayed considerable skill and ingenuity in achieving breakthrough in many fields through a process of trial and error. Their success is all the more laudable because they were forced to work in a hostile international environment in which the nuclear monopolists had closed technological shutters to them. The US and India, though for different reasons, brought to bear considerable pressure on Pakistan against her nuclear research programme. The scientists and engineers of PAEC, in collaboration with China have succeeded in making a small research and training reactor of 27 kilowatt capacity which has just been set up at PINSTECH [Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology].

At Nilore, near Rawalpindi, PAEC personnel are actively engaged in exploration of uranium to its conversion into fuel and will be able to meet entire fuel requirements of its reactors to be set up in future. A

consortium of major industries is being set up to mark reactors within the country under the guidance of PAEC. The PAEC will produce first reactor one from France (100 MW) and it would be a bit more expensive. The second from China (300 MW) wil be installed and put into operation by 1997, and by 2006 PEAC will be able to set up power plants, which would generate 600 MW electricity. Pakistan has already achieved essential capability in the front end involving mining, milling, refining and manufacturing nuclear fuel and materials. It can hardly be over emphasised that proliferation of nuclear weapons is essentially a political problem, which should be tackled primarily on the political plane than through the self-defeating policy of atempting to use technical fixes. Because the motivation to go nuclear is essentially political, the desired restraint should also come through the political route. Major regional conflicts and problems may drive certain states to seek weapons of mass destruction including chemical, biological and nuclear armaments. This applies to the Middle East, South Africa and Latin America. The nature of the problems are well known: the need is to find out regionally acceptable solutions in which the international community could and should live in peaceful conditions.

At present, Pakistan is faced with a serious challenge to her national security. The magnitude of threat demands review of her on-going nuclear policy. The American Nuclear Society's Special Committee on Nuclear Weapons and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy observed that:

"Interest in nuclear weapons is more likely to arise from complex considerations of national security, rather than from technical opportunity. Once a decision to acquire nuclear weapons is made, the acquisition of sufficient material is only a matter of time, available skill and resources. Nuclear weapon proliferation is thus primarily an international political issue and the eventual solution is in the political domain rather than in the technical."

Article on U.S. 'Discrimination,' Aid Delay

BK2610034190 Lahore THE NATION in English 25 Oct 90 p 4

[Article by Zain Noorani, former minister of state for foreign affairs: "India's Nuclear Capability; U.S. Discrimination Against Pakistan"]

[Text] President Bush has yet not signed the certificate required to release this year's aid to Pakistan. It is as a result of a storm raised by certain anti-Pakistan, pro-India and pro-Israel Congressmen, led by Stephen Solarz, regarding Pakistan's nuclear programme.

During the Reagan Presidency also, such demands were made by the same lot of Congressmen, but Reagan saw through their game and issued the certificate every year, though a couple of times late, due to technical reasons.

Congressman Solarz is an arch-Indiaphile, who prides on being referred to as the 'Voice of India' and who heads the House Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on Asia and Pacific, is once again busy riding his favourite hobby horse—bashing Pakistan and its nuclear programme. But he and others like him prefer to keep their eyes closed to India's mammoth nuclear programme which has all indication of being certainly not for peaceful purposes.

Pakistan has time and again offered India a number of proposals whereby both the countries should jointly take steps to allay fears of the world community as also to reduce tension in the region, but each time India has refused to accept any of the proposals.

A number of world leaders have urged both countries to sign the NPT as Pakistan has agreed to sign it if India does the same. However, India has stubbornly refused to listen to them. The latest such proposal came from Toshiki Kaifu of Japan when he visited India recently.

India, particularly its bureaucracy, is most sensitive about this and Kaifu had, without realising, tread on a number of toes and left India with a lot of people massaging their feet.

What these well meaning people do not realise is that India cannot afford to sign the NPT for the simple reason that while crying hoarse in its false propaganda against Pakistan, India itself has for the last few years been stealthily stockpiling in the basements large number of bombs just a final screw away from completion and is also converting large stocks of plutonium into weapons grade fuel.

The various nuclear installations India is said to possess are: Tarapur (this is under INEC [expansion unknown] inspection), Rajasthan (this is also under INEC inspection), Cirus at Trombay, Dhurva also at Trombay, Madras I, Madras II at Kalpaban and two plants almost ready in UP [Uttar Pradesh]. Barring Tarapur and Cirus, the remaining six are not subject to inspection by the International Atomic Eenrgy Commission [IAEC].

It should be remembered that fuel made at Cirus was diverted for the 1974 Pokharan explosion, which was claimed to be a test explosion for "peaceful purposes", but which, in fact, was the root of all subsequent exploits by India in the field of nuclear advancement.

India claims that Cirus produces 9 kg of plutonium a year and Dhurva 25 kg. Similarly, Madras I and Madras II are said to be producing 60 kg. According to a number of reports published in India itself, all these plants are producing much more plutonium somewhere in the region of 250 kg annually and this has been going on for a number of years. Converting this in accordance with the accepted standard for producing a bomb, which is 5 to 8 kg per bomb, India has had the capacity for some years now of producing over 40 bombs per year. When its UP plants go into full production this capacity will increase considerably.

The diversion of plutonium from the Cirus in 1974 for the Pokhran test was secret and Morarji Desai is on record severely criticising Indira Gandhi for secretly carrying out what was "claimed to be a peaceful nuclear explosion". He went on to say that if everything was on board then why were the international scientific community and the IAEC kept in the dark? And finally he want to know why this clamour for unsafeguarded plutonium.

Further collaboration of India's nuclear programme not being for peaceful purposes is found in an article contributed to the ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF INDIA in 1987 by Achin Vinaik who after exensive research wrote: "Pakistan's proximity to nuclear weapons capacity is presented as leaving India with no choice but to go in for open commitment to development of a nuclear weapons programme. In reality, all that Pakistan is close to doing now is what India already accomplished way back in 1974—establishing that it too, has nuclear weapons capability. Since then, India has accumulated enough weapons grade fuel to acquire a small arsenal of 'bombs in the basement' requiring perhaps a final touch before being fully assembled. Of course, New Delhi denies having such an arsenal. But what it cannot deny is that it has accumulated enough fuel to assemble a number of bombs. Furthermore, New Delhi will not give the Indian public the keys to check out its basement."

United States' policy on the nuclear issue has all along been lop-sided. In 1977 and 1979, the US cut off aid to Pakistan. No other country was so penalised even though a number have acquired nuclear capability. Even India has been taking various steps to do so, no matter how loudly it denies it. Yet the USA and the other self-proclaimed defenders of non- proliferation have preferred to keep mum. Is this not discrimination against Pakistan?

In 1987, as a result of some very efficient lobbying by Pakistan, the Senate Committee on Asia and Pacific, recommended that the US should induce both India and Pakistan to seriously consider taking appropriate action to safeguard the region from nuclear proliferation.

This was the first time that both India and Pakistan had their nuclear programmes placed on par by a responsible American committee. India immediately let out a howl and activated its pro-India lobby in the Congress.

At the joint sitting of the two committees to adopt a final resolution, Congressman C. Wilson and a few others moved an amendment which more forcefully equated the two nuclear programmes. The pro-India lobby in the Congress had to go on the defensive for the first time including Stephen Solarz, who for years had been on the attack against Pakistan and its peaceful nuclear programme. As a result, they had to seek a compromise with Congressman Charlie Wilson and his colleagues and agree not to oppose allocation of aid to Pakistan in exchange for the amendment not being pressed so that India did not get mentioned in this contact.

Around this time with the help of India and at its instigation, the influential pro-India lobby and some unscrupulous offices, a trumped up charge was made and a case fled against a person called Arshad Pervaiz for alleged attempts to export to Pakistan illegally Brenium. the case was given a lot of publicity and Pakistan was painted to be the villain, though Pakistan pr[illegible]ed vehemently that it had nothing to do with the entire matter. Arshad Pervaiz was initially sentenced to serve a jail sentence but ultimately in an appeal, his sentence was set aside. India and its friends thus managed to divert the attention of the international diplomatic community and public opinion from its own 'nuclear adventures' and to place Pakistan in an adverse light.

It can safely be forecasted that as 1993 draws near, when India desires to withdraw its safeguarded nuclear plants from international bindings, it will come up again with some new and fictitious charge against Pakistan and again its friends in America will 'dance to its tune'. A foretaste of this is the latest charge against Pakistan that it has been trying to import furnaces for its nuclear plant.

The world should ponder over the fact that in the face of all the material that is now available to show that India is on the verge of going in for a massive nuclear programme which by no stretch of imagination can be termed for peaceful purposes. What has happend to all the champions of non-proliferation and what has happened to Solarz and the like of him who are normally very vocal. What has happened to the State Department, the Defence Department and various Institutes for Strategic Studies? Have they suddenly been deprived of their vision or lost their speaking facilities?

While the rest of the world is busy chalking out programmes for denuclearising and even the superpowers are destroying their nuclear wealpons, India is set on a path to manufacture a large number of nuclear bombs. It is high time that the conscience of the world awakes from its deep slumber and positive actions are taken to check India before it is too late.

Pakistan has lived without American aid before, without conceding to American interference in its internal affairs as also allowing America to discriminate against Pakistan's nuclear programme. We must do it once again.

It is heartening to see that a beginning has been made and it has been made clear to the USA that Pakistan will not compromise on its principles. Let us hope that the caretaker government as well as the new government that is ushered in after the elections stick to this.

In the meantime, let us take steps to boost up our own resources, our industrial production and our exports. Even if American aid is once again forthcoming this year, Pakistan must realise that this perpetual blackmail which we have to face very year must end. And it will end only when we make efforts to be self-reliant.

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Recover Near Air Base

BK2410095590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0347 GMT 24 Oct 90

["OANA/Pool item"; report by Geoff Wijesinghe from Jaffna]

[Text] Colombo, 23 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—[The] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were completely driven out of the KKS [Kankesanthurai] area, as Sri Lanka's security forces in a combined air, sea and land operation today secured totally the 40 square km outer perimeter of the sprawling 1000 acre Palaly airbase in Jaffna.

I was one of a group of 15 foreign and local journalists, who witnessed the final successful assault on the LTTE to eject them from the KKS area.

Bullets from G-5 machine guns and AK-47 whistled ominously within inches of some of us as the terrorists who had been out gunned and out manouvered retreated to Keeramalai from the rock temple situated on a hillock projecting to the sea at the southern end of KKS.

The army with air and naval support were exchanging fire with the terrorists when Percy Uvagiliya, the information department's photographer was standing up to take a 'shot' at the terrorists firing from bunkers below at the army positions atop, at the rock temple when he narrowly escaped death as an army sergeant pushed him to the ground when a bullet was about to hit his head.

All one could hear was the sound as of a crackle and lights such as that of a flash gun of a photographer popping all around us as we crouched on our haunches or sat on the ground bent with heads bowed for full 15 minutes, before we managed to escape in a low running crouch. With me were the PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], All India Radio and XINHUA correspondents. The others were in staggered positions a few yards away.

One soldier was killed in this battle today which followed the capture of the rock temple.

The final battle for the strategic port town on the northern coast of Jaffna began this morning, when government troops led by burly Col. Gamini Gunasekera, a northern veteran who commands the 04 Gajabahu regiment attacked the terrorists from three flanks, two kilometres south of the KKS army detachment. The terrorists were pushed onto rock temple and right down the rock to Keeramalai from where they started firing at the army from bunkers with G-5 machine guns, AK-47 rifles crudely made "pasilan" mortars of LTTE manufacture which have a range of 2000 metres and locally made rocket propelled grenades known as 'BABA'.

Sri Lanka airforce helicopters, fixed wing aircraft and naval gunboats supported the Army in this operation.

There was not a single terrorist in sight as we drove through the captured [words indistinct] of Vasavilan, Koddivan, Tellapillai, KKS, Terminal bar, Mawathithipuram, Mallakam, Kurumbasetti, Myliddy—the entire 40 square km.

Neither, were there any civilians in the entire area. The homes in this area were bereft of any furniture, their occupants had abandoned them when the LTTE had dug a network of interlinking bunkers in their front gardens throughout the area, of concrete and railway lines. The allegations of indiscriminate bombing was proved another LTTE canard. There were no civilians killed here. There were no civilians at the time of the operation.

Some of the empty homes were used as LTTE gun positions and at the Koddivan headquarters we saw hundreds of packets of cooked meals prepared by the women cadres for their male terrorists. Those damaged by the security forces were LTTE positions. Intimate feminine wear such as panties and brassieres, sanitary napkins were strewn all over the verandah and drawing room of what once had been the home of a respectable Jaffna family, as the LTTE cadres 'cut and ran' in the face of superior man and firepower and strategy. A feature of the network of bunkers with slits to fire guns were all directed at the front, while the army attacked from the rear in all the captured towns taking the terrorists completely by surprise and brilliantly out manouvering them. The terrorist gun positions were facing the front.

The security forces had also made a large weapons haul from the terrorists including the highly sophisticated RL-81 rocket propelled grenades which the LTTE captured from the Tamil National Army [TNA] reportedly given them by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] before leaving.

Incidentally, a senior army official who accompanied the group of journalists on a tour of the war-ravaged areas, explained "we knew they were building bunkers after the IPKF left, but the LTTE said this was being done as a protection against the TNA. The LTTE had also said they were building bunkers and stationing themselves close to army camps as an added protection against the TNA". Those had proved to be palpable terrorist lies used as an excuse, while preparing for war against the Sri Lankan Government, while maintaining a facade of maintaining peace. The KKS cement factory which was re-taken by the 04th Gajabahu regiment led by Col. Gunasekera was badly damaged from outside and there were two foot layer bunkers in the premises with slits to fire and the army camp 200 km ahead. A gun turret had also been erected. Window panes had been shattered to be used as gun turrets.

The Army which is clearing the multi million rupee factory which gave employment to 1000 Jaffna citizens before the LTTE savaged had heard 29 explosives inside the factory as the LTTE made a hurried exit to the

Harbour View Hotel facing the KKS Harbour was also blasted as the terrorists withdrew. [sentence as received]

The Vasavilan Central College had been converted into a training camp for LTTE male and female cadres and deep interlocking underground bunkers built inside the classrooms. This was one of the places that a large number of condoms were found by the Army after the LTTE had been routed from Vasavilan, as was the case at Mandativu.

We also saw some Indian made 'Sultan' contraceptives which had been captured, at the Palaly base headquarters, thus exploding the myth that the LTTE is a highly disciplined terrorist organisation. In fact, it was over a woman Ursula Kandiah that Uma Maheswaran and Prabhakaran fell out and PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] was formed as a breakway group of the LTTE.

Soon after we arrived at the Palaly airbase this morning on board a Sri Lanka Air Force Cessna, the 15 of us met Major General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, northern commander of Sri Lanka's security forces, who briefed us on the situation.

The northern commander, who led the highly successful Vadamarachchi operation along with Major General Gerry de Silva (now eastern commander) in the pre-IPKS period, disclosed that over 2000 LTTE cadres had been killed in the north since the LTTE began its wave of wanton attacks on the security forces and police on 11 June this year. He said 119 LTTE terrorists had been killed during the current operation to clear the outler perimeter of the Palaly base which had come under heavy mortar fire from LTTE positions around it. Seventy six of them had been identified and their names were known. He said no civilians had been killed since the operation to clear the outer perimeter of the base commenced on 17 October. He said immediate objectives had been achieved.

Major General Kobbekaduwa said the orders to the military were to restore order in the north and east. Seven LTTE militant leaders and sub-leaders had been killed during clearing operations. They included Anthony, the LTTE's military leader in the Eastern District of Amparai. He said the food supply lines had been smoothened as the LTTE had been eliminated from KKS where they were blocking food supplies from moving properly.

Meanwhile, a senior officer disclosed that when the Army was feeding 6,000 civilian refugees for humanitarian reasons, the LTTE had warned them against receiving food from the Army. That was what the LTTE was doing to the people of Jaffna, the majority of whom were against the LTTE. Information from the public was now flowing in against the LTTE. He said 20 soldiers had been killed on the current operation, seven very seriously wounded and 110 [words indistinct]. Seventy of those who received minor injuries had returned to do battle with the LTTE. Two LTTE deserters had been found at Mandativu.

In reply to a question, he said a number of Tamil groups, who wanted law and order were assisting [word indistinct] against the LTTE. A senior Army officer said the LTTE was running short of ammunition. One factor which was clearly evident was the deep sense of [word indistinct] and fellowship between the officers and men of Sri Lanka's security forces in Jaffna, who looked every inch hardened for battle.

Army Given Shoot-on-Sight Orders in Northeast

BK2510102090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, shoot-on-sight orders have been given to the Army to prevent anyone forcing the civilians to leave their homes in Mannar and Amparai areas. This follows reported LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] threats to the Muslims in these two areas to vacate their houses by the 28th of this month or face death.

LTTE Rebels Kill Seven Soldiers in Ambush

BK2510130190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 25 (AFP)—Separatists ambushed and killed seven soldiers in eastern Sri Lanka and troops went on full alert in Northern Mannar after rebels warned Moslems there to vacate the area, officials said Thursday. A military spokesman here said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels waylaid an army foot patrol on a road in Trincomalee district, killing seven soldiers.

Officials said it was not immediately known how many soldiers were with the route-clearing patrol but they believed the rebels had escaped with weapons belonging to the dead troops. A major military offensive in June dislodged the rebels from eastern towns they controlled, but groups of heavily armed LTTE cadres have regrouped in jungle hideouts to continue their guerrilla war with troops.

Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne also told reporters at a weekly briefing in parliament that the LTTE had warned Moslems living on Mannar Island to leave by Friday or be killed. "We warn anybody who tries to dislodge Moslems that they will face the same future. I will direct the army to shoot on sight anybody trying to evict any Moslems in the area," Mr Wijeratne said.

A military spokesman here said some 1,000 Moslems had already fled Mannar District, which also covers Mannar Island, and had sought protection at the Silavaturai army camp in the district. He said LTTE cadres

had told Moslem residents in Mannar to hand over jewelry and money to the guerrilla group and leave the area or face death.

Mr. Wijeratne said the quit threat was an LTTE diversionary tactic to force Colombo to deploy soldiers fighting the rebels in northern Jaffna Peninsula, on Mannar Island. Hundreds of army soldiers have been moved to the Jaffna Peninsula from most northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka to carry out a major offensive against the guerrillas in the peninsula.

Military officials said the LTTE had received a battering during a week-long army thrust on rebel-held areas near the Palaly military base in the peninsula, which is the main LTTE stronghold. Thousands of Moslems, Sinhalese and Tamils in the northeast have been made refugees since renewed fighting broke out in the region on June 11 between government troops and the LTTE.

A large number of Moslems live on LTTE-controlled Mannar Island, which has a population of some 40,000 people and is linked to the mainland by a causeway. The army is said to have a solitary detachment on Mannar Island but most army camps are based on the mainland.

Mr. Wijeratne also said the Tigers had put out pamphlets in eastern Ampara District purportedly signed by the Moslem extremist Jihad (holy war) Group warning Tamils and Sinhalese to vacate the area within two weeks. The Tamil-language notice said Tamils and Sinhalese should leave the area in order to make Ampara a Moslem district, he said.

But Mr. Wijeratne said the threat was aimed at discrediting the Moslem community and creating confusion among Sinhalese and added that Colombo was certain that Jihad did not issue the threat. Both Moslems and Tamils in Sri Lanka's northeast are Tamil-speaking but belong to separate minority ethnic groups. The Tamils dominate the northeast where the Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese are in the minority.

Officials said the LTTE was trying to create tension between Sinhalese and Moslems. One third of the island's one million Moslems live in the northeast. The Jihad is violently anti-LTTE and projects itself as a group protecting Moslem interests in eastern Sri Lanka.

The LTTE has accused Moslems of siding with government troops searching for the Tigers. Relations between Moslems and Tamils, both minority groups, have been strained since ethnic riots broke out in 1983 between Sinhalese and Tamils.

Moslem-Tamil tension peaked in early August after the slaying of more than 200 Moslem civilians in eastern Batticaloa District, which Colombo blamed on the Tigers, who denied the allegation. Officials said more than 1,000 government troops have been killed or gone missing since fighting flared again. Unofficial and official sources estimate that nearly 4,500 people including hundreds of civilians have died in violence in the northeast.

Communique on Government Operations in Jaffna

BK2510122590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Security forces continue to consolidate their position in the Jaffna Peninsula during the last 48 hours ending at 1200 yesterday. The curfew, which was imposed in the Jaffna Peninsula, was lifted on Wednesday, except in the area of Velikamam North. A communique by the Defense Ministry says a killer squad of 30 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists attacked a group of [word indistinct] cultivators in Kokkuvil village, killing 10 civilians and two home guards. They had hacked to death three females and five children. The minister of power and energy, Chandra Bhandara, left for this village by helicopter yesterday.

In the Jaffna Peninsula, the security forces conducting operations northeast of Tellippalai, killed four LTTE terrorists and caused injury to a large number. In this encounter, one soldier was killed and 14 injured in action. Troops conducting search operations in (Melaidai), Kankesanturai, Kadduwan, the cement factory, Keerimalai, and Kayts areas have recovered large quantities of antipersonnel mines, grenades, and explosives. Three soldiers were reported killed.

The communique adds that several innocent civilians, who managed to escape from the custody of LTTE terrorists in Jaffna and reached Colombo, have reported to the authorities that there is open resentment against the reign of terror, extortion, torture, repression, and acts of [word indistinct] unleashed by the LTTE terrorists. A mothers' front has been established to counterattack the LTTE terrorists. Eyewitnesses have reported how the mothers' front has apprehended the LTTE terrorists in the night under cover of darkness and forcibly shaved their heads and branded them with words such as traitor and low caste (?pigs).

In the Batticaloa District, the security forces have reported that 15 youths, suspected to be LTTE terrorists, were arrested when removing abestos sheets from the roof of the government food stores. One of them was shot dead when he tried to get away.

Reportage on Premier Wijetunge Visit to France

WA2410180390

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunge to Paris to attend a meeting of the World Bank, including reports on his talks with UNESCO Director General Francesco Mayor, please see the FRANCE section of the 24 October West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.